

# HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Hertfordshire LEADS, Growth and Infrastructure Unit, Environment and Infrastructure,  
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Kirsty Shirley  
Planning Department,  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,  
The Campus, Welwyn Garden City,  
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Simon Richards  
Tel: 01992 588483  
Date: 27/10/2021

Dear Kirsty

**Application:** Erection of a two storey side extension with two front and two rear dormer windows

**Address:** 99 The Ridgeway Cuffley Potters Bar EN6 4BG

**Reference** 6/2021/2713/HOUSE

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on the above, for which I have the following comments:

Hertfordshire Ecology has responded to a number of similar applications at this site. The site is adjacent to Northaw Great Wood SSSI, LWR and Local Wildlife Site and is in an area providing suitable habitat for bats there are also great crested newt breeding ponds nearby. However, given the limited scope of the proposals the character of the existing property I do not consider that further surveys are required in this case or that the application is likely to impact on the Northaw Great Wood. However, in the unlikely event that bats are found, given the proposal will involve demolition, I advise a precautionary approach to the works is taken and recommend the following **Informative** is added to any permission granted.

*“If bats, or evidence for them, are discovered during the course of roof works, work must stop immediately, and advice sought on how to proceed lawfully from an appropriately qualified and experienced Ecologist or Natural England to avoid an offence being committed.”*

Furthermore, I recommend a precautionary approach to the works is taken with regards to great crested newt and advise the following Informative is added to any permission granted

Keep the area of grass / vegetation within the application site as short as possible up to, and including, the time when proposal works take place, so that it remains / becomes unsuitable for Great crested newts to cross. Stored materials (that might act as temporary resting places) are raised off

the ground e.g. on pallets or batons; and any rubbish is cleared away to minimise the risk of Great crested newts using the piles for shelter. Any trenches or excavations are backfilled before nightfall or a ramp left to allow Great crested newts to escape easily. In the event of Great crested newts being found, work must stop immediately, and ecological advice sought on how to proceed lawfully from an appropriately qualified and experienced Ecologist or Natural England

I do not consider there to be any other ecological issues with this proposal.

I trust these comments are of assistance,  
Yours sincerely

Simon Richards  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology