Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	21/12/2023
Application number:	PL/2023/07728
Proposal:	Creation of one wildlife pond and use of excavated soil to create low bunds (up to 1m high)
Site address:	Land to the rear of July Cottage, Barbers Lane, Swallowcliffe, Salisbury, Wilts, SP3 5PQ
Case officer:	Joe Richardson

Recommendations:

	No Comment
x	Support
	No objection
	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
	Objection - further information required
	Objection in principle
	HRA completed

Matters Considered:

This application is for the creation of a pond to increase the number of waterbodies available for great crested newts across Wiltshire as part of the District Level Licensing scheme for this species, currently administered by Natural England. Pond creation in suitable strategic areas is vital to the integrity of the scheme.

Hampshire River Avon Catchment
This development falls within the catchment of the River Avon SAC and has potential to cause adverse effects alone or in combination with other developments through discharge of phosphorus in wastewater. A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that as the proposals are for the creation of a new pond there is no mechanism for adverse effect and operational impacts would be de-minimis.

Chilmark Quarries Bat SAC
The site falls within a 6km Buffer zone for Barbastelle within the Chilmark Quarries Bat SAC. A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (Wiltshire Council) as required by Regulation 63 Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This concluded that given the scale and nature of the development, there is no mechanism for adverse effect and operational impacts would be de-minimus. **The HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on the SAC and Appropriate Assessment is not required.**

There are no ecological constraints to the proposed works within or immediately adjacent to the site, therefore I am happy to support this application.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist Jenna Buss	Date 21/12/2023