

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Abi Gazzard
Date:	30/03/2026
Application number:	PL/2026/01189
Proposal:	Construction of a hard surfaced tennis court with surround fencing
Site address:	Fosgate House, Upper Chute, Andover, SP11 9EW
Case officer:	Kate Clements

Recommendations:

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

Thank you for consulting Ecology. I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps, aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and existing records of protected species.

Information considered:

- Design and Access Statement, Mark Karman, February 2026
- Great Crested Newts Method Statement, Mark Jarman, December 2025
- Location Plan
- Soft Landscaping Plan
- Site area photos

The site comprises a garden where it is proposed to construct a hard-surfaced tennis court.

COMMENTS:

River Test catchment and Solent protected sites

The site falls within the River Test catchment which drains into the Solent. This region is protected by a number of international designations including the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site; as well as the nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) that underpin these international designations. This development therefore has potential to cause adverse effects alone or in combination with other developments through discharge of nitrogen in wastewater. Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the relevant Competent Authority (the LPA) to determine the potential significant effects and the suitability of any measures proposed to avoid or mitigate those effects.

A test of likely significance has been carried out by the relevant Competent Authority as required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This concluded that since there is no proposal to create any additional overnight accommodation/water discharge, there would be no overall mechanism for adverse effect. The

HRA has concluded that the application is not likely to have significant impacts on the SAC and subsequently the application is screened out of Appropriate Assessment.

Protected species

The submitted documents state that there is a pond 300m to the southeast with a confirmed GCN record. This pond is separated from the site by roads and houses. Generally, it is considered that many GCN stay within 250m of a breeding pond, but may disperse more widely if there is good and well-connected habitat surrounding and with limited barriers to dispersal. Given the barriers to dispersal noted between the pond and application site, as well as the habitats to be impacted (regularly mown lawn), the overall risk to GCN is considered to be low provided suitable precautions are implemented.

The GCN method statement details a number of precautionary mitigation measures, including a pre-commencement site search, supervised vegetation removal, escape routes in any trenches left overnight, and avoidance of creating habitat piles in/near the construction area. Adherence to these measures must be secured via a condition.

A native-species hedgerow is proposed along the northern, eastern and southern borders of the tennis court. This enhancement is welcomed and will provide some wildlife benefits; this plan should be secured via condition.

It is noted that no new lighting is proposed.

Biodiversity Net Gain

From 12 February 2024 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). Based on the information available the biodiversity gain planning condition is not considered to apply to this application as it is for development which is subject of a householder application within the meaning of article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Note to case officer: you should be satisfied that the proposals meet the above criteria and act accordingly. Further information will be required from the applicant prior to determination in the event the application is considered to be subject to mandatory biodiversity net gain.

CONDITIONS:

1. Compliance with submitted documents

The development will be carried out in strict accordance with the following documents:

- Figure 8 – Great Crested Newts Method Statement, Mark Jarman, December 2025
- Figure 7 – Soft Landscaping Plan

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Sign off by WC Ecologist will only be given once ALL outstanding information has been submitted and agreed sufficient.

Ecologist Abi Gazzard	Date 30/03/2026
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