

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

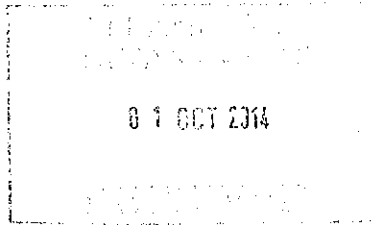
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Duty Officer
Planning
Welwyn Hatfield Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6A

Ask for: Anita Parry

Tel: 01992 556149

Date: 01/10/201



Dear Duty Officer,

Application ID: S6/2014/1443/MA

Location: Land off Comet Way Hatfield

Description: Erection of new public house and associated works

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

We do not have any known biological (habitats or species) records for the application site itself, which appears from aerial photography to be predominantly bare ground with some small patches of rough grass at the edges and trees along the SE and SW boundaries..

The Design and Access Statement mentions that 6 decayed trees will be removed under this proposal. Unfortunately, I cannot see the Tree Report on-line but from an ecological perspective birds and their nests need to be considered with any tree/shrub removal. As such, I recommend that a precautionary approach is taken to the planned works and the following **informative** should be added to any permission granted

- ***"The removal of trees and shrubs should be carried out during the period October-February only; to protect breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young. If this is not possible then a pre-development (same day) search of the area where nest might be should be made by a suitably experienced ecologist for breeding birds and their nests. If active nests are found, then clearance work must be delayed until the juvenile birds have left the nest and are fully independent"***.

I trust these comments are of assistance.

Regards,

Anita Parry

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities