

## HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Environmental Resource Planning, Hertfordshire County Council,  
County Hall, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8DN  
[ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01992 555220

Duty Officer	Ask for:	Victoria Gilbey
Development Management		
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	Tel:	01992 555220
The Campus		
Welwyn Garden City		
Herts AL8 6AE	Date:	18/02/2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **App Reference: N6/2014/2149/FP**

**Proposed enlargement of existing police firearms training range including enlarged replacement bullet catcher and backstop, erection of single storey support building and associated landscaping  
Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City**

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

There does not appear to be any supporting ecological survey information submitted with the application.

The location of the proposal is in an area of grassland with mature trees, large waterbodies and grassland surrounding it. The Stanborough Lakes Ecosite (ref: 57/020) is located 20 m to the south. These habitats will provide suitable foraging and commuting opportunities for bats (and other species) and we have records of bats using the area.

The proposed site plan (ref 17112014128) refers to the demolition of an existing building and structure (the existing timber backstop) and the removal of four mature trees and five semi-mature trees to facilitate the proposed enlargement.

As the proposal will involve demolition of a building, structure and removal of trees, if bats are present they may be affected. I believe it is reasonable to advise that **the LPA should require an initial inspection survey of the building/structure and trees by a professional, licensed bat consultant to assess whether bats, or evidence of them, are present and will be affected by the proposals.** Such surveys can be undertaken at any time of year. In the event that evidence or high potential is found, additional activity surveys may be required with appropriate recommendations, although these can only be undertaken when the bats become active after hibernation. The survey report should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

As this survey requirement is concerned with whether or not a European Protected Species might be affected, the local planning authority requests that further information is provided, prior to permission being granted, in order to provide us with enough information to determine the application and discharge our obligations under the Habitats Directive.

We would also **recommend that an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is carried out** to provide further information on the habitats, and likely associated species, which may be affected by the proposals. The level of survey undertaken should follow best practice guidelines (CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013).

Finally, we note that there is no Arboricultural survey information submitted with the application, despite the fact that trees are going to be removed as part of the proposed works.

I trust these comments are of assistance in determining this application.  
Regards,

Victoria Gilbey  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities