

# HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Environmental Resource Planning  
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Sukhdeep Jhooti  
Planning Department,  
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The Campus, Welwyn Garden City,  
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Simon Richards  
Tel: 01992 588483  
Date: 14/04/2021

Dear Sukhdeep

**Application:** Erection of a 5 bedroom detached house  
**Address:** 22 Church Lane Northaw Potters Bar EN6 4NX  
**Reference** 6/2021/0314/FULL

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

Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre has no species or habitat data for this site. The proposed location of the building is mostly composed of hard standing with some garden beds of shrubs and hedging. Given its location and character of the site, I do not consider there is any significant ecological constraint to this proposal. However, since shrubs and hedges will need to be removed to accommodate the new building precautions to protect nesting birds should be taken and I advise the following precautionary Informative is included with any consent given.

*“Any significant tree/shrub works, or removal should be undertaken outside the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) to protect breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young. If this is not practicable, a search of the area should be made no more than two days in advance of vegetation clearance by a competent Ecologist and if active nests are found, works should stop until the birds have left the nest.”*

In addition, the planning system should now aim to deliver overall net gains for biodiversity where possible as laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework and other planning policy documents. Simple biodiversity enhancements that could be incorporated into the development proposal include examples such as: integrated bat roost units (bricks and tubes) in buildings, specific nest boxes for Swifts and House sparrows, gaps under fencing to allow free movement of small mammals (e.g. hedgehogs) and amphibians, native tree, shrub and hedgerow planting. Any biodiversity enhancements should be considered at an early stage to avoid potential conflict with any external lighting plans.

I trust these comments are of assistance,  
Yours sincerely

Simon Richards  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology