

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Environmental Resource Planning
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Emily Stainer
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Ask for: Simon Richards
Tel: 01992 588483
Date: 12/08/2020

Dear Emily

Application: Erection of first floor extension over existing garage, removal of existing chimney, alterations to fenestration, enlargement of existing outbuilding and creation of swimming pool and terrace area

Address: 36 Vineyards Road Northaw Potters Bar EN6 4PA

Reference 6/2020/1681/HOUSE

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

Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) has records of a bat roost in close vicinity to this building, The building is located near the woodlands of Nyn park, including "The Vineyard, Nyn Park" Local Wildlife Site (LWS), which represent high quality foraging habitat for bats. The proposed work will require extensive work to the roof and opening of the existing roof void and if bats are present, they may be affected by the works.

Consequently, I believe it is reasonable to advise a daytime **Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA)** is undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced ecologist to evaluate 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 but should follow established best practice as described in the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition, 2016.

As bats are classified as European Protected Species (EPS), sufficient information is required to be submitted to the LPA prior to determination - so it can fully consider the impact of the proposals on bats consistent with legal obligations under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Consequently, in the event that bats or potential are found, follow-up nocturnal (dusk emergence / dawn re-entry) surveys are likely to be required which can typically only be carried out when bats are active in the summer months usually between May and August, or September if the weather remains warm. The results of any follow-up surveys should provide mitigation measure to safeguard bats if they are to be affected by the proposals. The survey report should be submitted to the LPA for written approval.

As we are now within the optimum time of year to undertake bat activity surveys, if they are recommended in the PRA, they can start now and should be completed prior to determination.

To conclude

Currently there is insufficient information on bats to determine this application. Once the requested survey information has been provided, I can advise the LPA as necessary

I trust these comments are of assistance,
Yours sincerely

Simon Richards
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology