

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Environmental Resource Planning, Hertfordshire County Council

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Mr W Myers
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Sue Hooton
Tel: 01992 555220

Date: 10 November 2017

Dear Mr Myers,

Application Reference: 6/2017/2329/FULL

Proposed development at: Land Adjacent to 37 Lambs Close Cuffley EN6 4HD

Proposal: Erection of 3 x 2-bedroom dwellings with associated parking - retrospective

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on this application. I note that this relates to a consented development (6/2015/2173/FULL) for two dwellings for which we previously provided comments on 18 February 2016 (Bernie Fleming).

As the development has commenced, the proposed amendments are of little consequence in ecological terms if the garages have been demolished.

However if this has not been completed, I would advise that a cautious approach to demolition is pursued to reduce the likelihood of harm to nesting birds. In this situation, I would recommend that the following **Informative** is added to any consent:

“The removal of buildings or trees or severe pruning of trees and shrubs should be avoided during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive [Natural England]) 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 3 days in advance of vegetation clearance and if active nests are found, the location should be cordoned off (minimum 5m buffer) until the end of the nesting season and/or works should stop until the birds have left the nest”.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Hooton

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology