

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

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Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
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Ask for: Bernie Fleming
Tel: 01992 555220

Date: 18 February 2016

Dear June,

6/2015/2173/FULL

**Erection of 2no 2 bedroom flats together with associated parking and retention of existing car parking spaces following demolition of existing garages.
37 Lambs Close, Cuffley, Potters Bar EN6 4HD**

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2016 and for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on the amendments to this application.

The proposed amendments are of little consequence in ecological terms. Circumstances remain the same; the existing ecological report remains valid and confirms that the site supports little intrinsic ecological interest. There are few ecological constraints and there is no reason to change our opinion of 'no objection' as expressed in our previous letter of 26 January 2016.

I will take this opportunity to advise that a cautious approach to demolition is pursued as the ecological report did find evidence of nesting birds. In general terms, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb a wild bird, and take, or damage their nest or eggs. Therefore, to reduce the likelihood of harm arising and of an offence being committed, I recommend that the following **Informative** is added to any consent:

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

I hope these comments are helpful.

Best wishes,

Bernie Fleming

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities