

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Environmental Resource Planning, County Hall, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8DN
ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01992 555220

Lucy Hale
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Bernie Fleming
Tel: 01992 555220

Date: 19 May 2016

Dear Lucy,

6/2016/0398/HOUSE

Conversion of existing loft space including addition of new dormer windows & roof light. Re-arrangement of the internal layout. External Alterations to include reduction of portico, change to fenestration, change of roof finish from plain clay tiles to slate and addition of stone sills and quoins

35 Kentish Lane, Brookmans Park, Hatfield AL9 6NG

Thank you for your email of 18 May providing the updated bat survey (Crossman Associates, May 2016) that accompanies this application; this provides details of the activity surveys required (as described in my letter of 13 April 2016).

This report concludes that there is no evidence to suggest that bats either roost or shelter in the building but goes on to recommend the incorporation of bat boxes in adjacent trees. I have no reason to disagree with these conclusions and whilst it is clear there are no ecological constraints that prevent permission being granted, the installation of the bat boxes should be secured to enable this application to deliver biodiversity gain as encouraged in the NPPF.

Circumstances can always change, however, and a precautionary approach is still required to reduce the risk of harm arising from this proposal and of an offence being committed. Therefore, I recommend that the following **Informative** is also added to any consent:

“Bats and their roosts are protected at all times under domestic and European law. Works should proceed with caution, and in the event of bats or evidence of them being found, work must stop immediately and advice taken on how to proceed lawfully from one of the following: Natural England: 0300 060 3900 , the UK Bat Conservation Trust Helpline: 0345 1300 228, the Herts & Middlesex Bat Group website: www.hmbg.org.uk or a bat consultant”

Providing these measures are secured, the application can be determined accordingly.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Fleming

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Funded by the following LPAs:

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, DACORUM BOROUGH, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT, HERTSMERE BOROUGH, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT, ST ALBANS DISTRICT, THREE RIVERS DISTRICT, WATFORD BOROUGH, WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH