

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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

Mr Mark Peacock
Planning Department,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,
The Campus, Welwyn Garden City,
Herts AL8 6AE.

Your Ref:
Ask for: Simon Richards
Tel: 01992 555220
Date: 02/10/2018

Dear Mark

Proposal: Erection of three storey business and social building, associated drainage, landscaping and ancillary works

Address, De Havilland Campus University Of Hertfordshire Mosquito Way Hatfield

Application No: 6/2018/2150/MAJ

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

The erection of the three storey building involves the removal of 7 common lime trees and an area of amenity grassland. This recently landscaped area is of little intrinsic value but the proposals will result in a locally significant loss of open space and habitat. Whilst of low value, this loss cannot be compensated for on-site – it is being replaced by 6 pine trees. Proposed evergreen hedge planting to the north facade of the building mirrors the formal line of planting on the other side of the road. However it adds limited ecological value to proposed planting of the site.

Clearly there will be a loss of open space, amenity planting and associated biodiversity as a result of the development. Given there is little opportunity on-site to sufficiently compensate for this loss, I suggest a sum of £2.500 is provided as Biodiversity Offsetting to supplement local ecological resources elsewhere, to offset the impact of this development. This would need to be secured through a formal S106 Agreement and a suitable project identified to ensure no net ecological loss / enhancement is achieved, consistent with the aims of NPPF.

I trust these comments are of assistance,

Yours sincerely

Simon Richards
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

Funded by the following Local Planning Authorities:
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL,
DACORUM BOROUGH, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT, HERTSMERE BOROUGH, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT,
CITY AND DISTRICT OF ST ALBANS, THREE RIVERS DISTRICT, WATFORD BOROUGH, WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH