

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Planning Authorities

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David Elmore
Principal Major Development Officer
Planning Department,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Ask for: Anita Parry
Tel: 01992 556149
Date: 29/07/2021

Dear David,

Application Reference: 6/2020/3222/MAJ

Proposed development at: Former Volkswagen Van Centre Comet Way Hatfield AL10 9TF

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new building comprising 118 residential apartments, layout of parking areas, landscaping, electricity substation and ancillary development.

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on the above. I apologise for the delay with this reply. The site comprises a (former) car showroom on hardstanding. It is of limited ecological value and I do not consider there to be any ecological constraints with the proposals.

The proposals include tree and shrub planting with native species, and green walls and roofs, which is welcomed and will enhance the site for biodiversity and provide opportunities for local wildlife such as birds, bats, and invertebrates, including pollinators. Details of long-term landscape management and maintenance should be provided, as well as details of any bat and bird boxes to be installed within the fabric of the new building (and other habitats if relevant, e.g. invertebrate homes, log piles, bee hives, etc ?), and I advise a **Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)** is secured by condition to demonstrate this.

Any external lighting scheme should be designed to minimise light spill, in particular directing light away from any boundary vegetation / trees to enable dark corridors to be used by wildlife as well as directing lighting away from potential roost / nesting sites.

I trust these comments are of assistance,

Yours sincerely

Anita Parry
Ecology Advisor
Hertfordshire Ecology