

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Planning Authorities

Hertfordshire LEADS, Growth and Infrastructure Unit, Environment and Infrastructure,
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Ask for: Simon Richards
Tel: 01992 588483
Date: 26/07/2021

Dear Kelsey

Application The erection of a one storey roof extension to create 6 no. flats including 3 x 1 bed and 3 x 2 bed flats, with associated parking and cycle and refuse provision

Address: 1 Maynard Place Cuffley Potters Bar EN6 4JA

Reference 6/2021/0773/FULL

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

Bats

Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre does not have any existing habitat or species data for this site. Given the location and nature of the site, lack of associated records and apparent characteristics of the building, on this occasion I do not consider there is sufficient likelihood of bats being present and affected for the LPA to require a formal survey prior to determination. However, in the unlikely event that bats are found, given the proposal will involve demolition, I advise a precautionary approach to the works is taken and recommend the following Informative is added to any permission granted. "If bats, or evidence for them, are discovered during the course of demolition works, work must stop immediately, and advice sought on how to proceed lawfully from an appropriately qualified and experienced Ecologist or Natural England to avoid an offence being committed."

Trees and Nesting Birds

The proposal would appear to result the loss of a number of garden shrubs and will remove potential nesting habitat for birds and as breeding birds are protected under the Countryside and Wildlife Act, risks an offence being committed. To avoid this, I advise the following Informative is added to any consent given.

"Any significant tree/shrub works, or removal should be undertaken outside the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) 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 two days in advance of vegetation clearance by a

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competent Ecologist and if active nests are found, works should stop until the birds have left the nest.”

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Enhancements

Given the increased weight given to BNG in the Environment Bill and the recent publication of a Small Sites Metric, although neither the use of this metric or the provision of BNG is yet law, I would advise that it is reasonable for the LPA to expect a development of this type to be able to demonstrate how it will provide a biodiversity uplift in line with the aims of the current NPPF.

Simple biodiversity enhancements that could be incorporated into the development proposal include examples such as: integrated bat roost units (bricks and tubes) in buildings, specific nest boxes for Swifts and House sparrows, native tree, shrub or fruit tree planting and hedgerow planting. I advise that these are best shown in this case through a Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan and that this should be a Condition of any approval.

I trust these comments are of assistance

Simon Richards
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology