HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Hertfordshire LEADS, Growth and Infrastructure Unit, Environment and Infrastructure, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DE ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Mark Peacock Ask for: Simon Richards Planning Department, Tel: 01992 588483

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,

The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Date: 04/10/2023

Herts AL8 6AE

Dear Mark

Application: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 14 dwellings. **Address:** Wells Farm Northaw Road East Cuffley Potters Bar EN6 4RD

Reference: 6/2020/3451/MAJ

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

Following a period of delay and in line with CIEEM best practice guidelines a walkover survey was carried on the 24th August 2023 out by DMD to assess for any changes on site. The technical note reporting on this survey concludes that there has not been any significant change and that the existing survey evidence and proposed mitigation from previous surveys by babec Ecological and Jones & Sons Environmental Sciences remains relevant and that in order for the application to be determined no further surveys are required. I have no reason to dispute this finding.

It is acknowledged that the measures proposed for bats and great crested newts will be carried out under the conditions of a European Protected Species mitigation licence issued by Natural England and I advise an informative should be attached to any permission to the effect that:

A licence for bats and great crested newts from Natural England is required to deliver this development. It will be a criminal offence if works proceed without these licences. It will also be a criminal offence if the terms of conditions of these licences, including in particular the mitigation and compensation requirements under the licences (which may require certain measures to be delivered before the development works start), are not adhered to.

I trust these comments are of assistance, Yours sincerely

Simon Richards Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology