

Comments for Planning Application: 6/2023/2418/OUTLINE

██████████, 12 Gilders, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 0EF

This site is suitable for the inclusion of integrated Swift bricks within the walls of the new development. At present, the only reference to biodiversity enhancements is a list including bird and bat boxes in the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Note, but no further details or commitment to any provision is made.

Although it is appreciated that this is an outline application, nevertheless the indication of 2 and 3 storey brick-built buildings are ideal for the inclusion of Swift bricks

Paragraph 186(d) of the NPPF states: “opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate”

Swift bricks conform to the British Standard for integrated nest boxes, BS42021:2022, and in doing so provide nest cavities for a number of birds including four red-listed species of conservation concern: Swift, House Martin, House Sparrow and Starling

Please consider securing Swift bricks by way of a condition, or alternatively as a condition of a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, the wording of which has previously been used by the LPA: “no development shall take place until written details are approved by the LPA of the model and location of **60** integrated Swift bricks, to be fully installed prior to occupation and retained thereafter”, in accordance with the NPPF