

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Environmental Resource Planning, Hertfordshire County Council

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Ms Rachel Legood
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Sue Hooton

Tel: 01992 555220

Date: 5/1/2018

Dear Ms Legood,

Application Reference: 6/2017/2774/HOUSE

Proposed development at: 28 Brockwood Lane Welwyn Garden City AL8 7BG

Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extension including alterations to openings

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on this application.

The Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) does not have any habitat or species records for the application site itself although there are records of bats, badger and slow worm in the vicinity, as well as records within 1km for hedgehog, common lizard and swift. The site lies within 50m of both Sherrardspark Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest & Local Nature Reserve (Ancient semi-natural woodland) and a Local Wildlife Site (57/048) known as "Dismantled Railway E. of Sherrardspark Wood", designated for ancient woodland.

The site comprises of a house and the proposal is to erect single storey side and rear extensions including alterations to openings.

The likelihood of protected species, particularly bats being present and affected by the development is limited as the extensions are single storey and the alternations are at the same level. I am therefore satisfied that the proposal will not adversely impact bats and no mitigation measures are necessary to avoid disturbance of European Protected Species. The application can therefore be determined.

Bats are protected under European and domestic legislation and in general terms, it is an offence to disturb or harm a bat, or damage or obstruct access to a roost. They will roost in buildings and trees if suitable features are available. Consequently I advise that the following **Informative** is added to any consent 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: 0300 060 3900."*

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Hooton

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

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