

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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Ask for: Simon Richards
Tel: 01992 588483
Date: 12/02/2019

Dear Sarah

Application: Erection of four storey development comprising 91 x bed care home with 13 x care suites

Address: Broadwater Road Welwyn Garden City AL7 3AX

Application No: 6.2018.3292.MAJ

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

Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre has no ecological data (species or habitats) relating to this site. The building previously occupying the site was demolished and cleared for redevelopment prior to November 2018. A Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) 7th November 2018, of the site was carried out by ELMAW Consultant Ecologists & Wildlife Biologists in December 2018. The consultant describes the area as consisting of ruderal/ephemeral vegetation, introduced amenity shrub, and amenity grassland representing low value and widely distributed and common habitats. No evidence of protected species or species of principle importance was found though, hedgehogs are nearby in adjacent sites. Given the sites urban location and the survey methods employed I have no reason to doubt these overall conclusions.

Consequently, I am **not** aware of any ecological constraints with regards to this proposal and the LPA can determine the application accordingly.

The planning system should aim to deliver overall net gains for biodiversity where possible as laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework and other planning policy documents. The PRA suggests suitable biodiversity enhancements for swifts and hedgehogs which will deliver biodiversity gains to species specifically relevant to the local area.

I trust these comments are of assistance,

Yours sincerely

Simon Richards
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology