

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Hertfordshire LEADS, Growth and Infrastructure Unit, Environment and Infrastructure,
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Raymond Lee
Planning Department,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,
The Campus, Welwyn Garden City,
Herts AL8 6AE

Ask for: Simon Richards
Tel: 01992 588483
Date: 12/10/2021

Dear Raymond

Application: Expansion and adaptation of existing car park, including construction of new single suspended level parking deck, reorganisation of road and pavement arrangement, introduction of additional cycle parking, junction improvements and associated landscaping improvements

Address: Campus West The Campus Welwyn Garden City AL8 6BX

Reference 6/2021/2207/MAJ

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

Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre have no data specific to this site although it is adjacent to 'Dismantled Railway E. of Sherrardspark Wood' Local Wildlife Site. The application is supported by two ecological reports by TMA. The first covering a wider area and undertaken in 2019 and a 2021 update to that report specific to the present application. The latter found no new ecological constraints and no further surveys were considered necessary. Sensible precautionary measures are suggested to safeguard protected species and can be found in the 2019 report. These should be followed as an **Informative** should consent be granted.

Lighting

lighting should avoid illuminating the neighbouring Local Wildlife Site and boundary vegetation to prevent it affecting the natural behaviour of nocturnal animals such as bats. The lighting plan included in the application does not include the location of these areas of vegetation and so does not allow the LPA to adequately assess any likely impact. I advise this is updated to include the location of the Local Wildlife Site and boundary vegetation. This needs to be sufficient to assess the biodiversity impact in terms of light spill, glare and colour temperature.

Biodiversity Net Gain and Ecological Enhancements

The proposal will result in the loss of a number of trees with a resulting reduction to the biodiversity value of the site. Biodiversity and ecological enhancement are proposed within both reports which will compensate for any habitat loss and provide biodiversity enhancement. The mitigation and

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enhancement measures to be followed need to be specified and included within development plans to ensure that they are realised.

In order to ensure the effective delivery of mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, it is recommended that the production of a Landscape and Biodiversity Plan, consistent with the information submitted, should be secured by way of **Condition**:

“Prior to commencement of the development, a Landscape and Biodiversity Plan shall be prepared, detailing how biodiversity will be incorporated within the development scheme. The plan shall include details of appropriate habitat improvement, management and creation schemes. The plan shall be submitted to the LPA to demonstrate the expectations of NPPF in achieving overall net gain for biodiversity have been met. Development shall proceed in accordance with the approved LEMP, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”

I trust these comments are of assistance,
Yours sincerely

Simon Richards
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology