

Dear Tina,

APP/19/00722 | Form 5 no. flats at roof level and provide new cladding and render finish to existing building. | Ward Court, 65 Sea Front, Hayling Island 19.1554

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information, and I have therefore carried out my own non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and recent GIS mapping. The existing Ward Court is a modern, multi-storey structure which is likely to be of limited ecological interest. The proposed works will comprise a new storey of dwelling flats as well as new external cladding. Based on my review of the application site I would not raise any overriding concerns in relation to the physical works: the building's roof is predominantly flat except for three slopes of tiled roof in sound condition.

Given the building's limited ecological value, it's height and prominent position, this is an excellent opportunity to provide ecological net gain. The installation of a series of nesting boxes for common swifts would be a simple and effective measure to achieve this. Therefore,, if you are minded to grant permission, could I suggest that a minimum of six common swift nest boxes are installed on the exterior of the refurbished structure. These should be installed beneath the eaves of the highest flat-roofed sections on the northern elevation. There are various designs for self-contained swift nest boxes and these can easily be incorporated into the fabric of a new structure or fitted to the exterior. The boxes do not require routine maintenance and pose no risk to public health and safety.

The redeveloped building shall incorporate a minimum of six nesting boxes for common swifts. These shall be installed as per manufacturer's specifications and be retained in perpetuity in a condition and location suited to their intended function. Reason: to protect and enhance biodiversity in accordance with the NERC Act 2006, NPPF and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**

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