

Dear Rachael,

APP/18/00876 | Demolition of existing house and construction of 1No. 4bed dwelling, garage and boatstore. | 24 Beacon Square, Emsworth, PO10 7HU 18.2118

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

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Bright Green, September 2018). The building was considered to offer low potential for supporting roosting bats and a further bat survey carried out in July 2018 recorded no roosting activity. The site is generally considered to be of limited ecological value, comprising the existing dwelling and associated managed garden. The proposal would

No mention is made of the very close proximity of Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar and Chichester Harbour SSSI. Whilst the proposed works are situated in the north of the application site and restricted predominantly to the existing building footprint, the construction works could potentially result in disturbance to the SPA/Ramsar if undertaken during periods when wintering bird species are present: the distance to the SPA is c.65m which is well-within the distances at which birds can be disturbed by noise disturbance, and construction-related activity may take place closer to the SPA/Ramsar.

The proposal is relatively small-scale and so I am not suggesting that noise and visual disturbance would be a significant issue. However, there will undoubtedly be periods of substantial noise and visual disturbance (e.g. during demolition works) and there should be recognition of how this may affect the qualifying features of the adjacent European designated sites. I did recommend in my pre-application comments that these issues needed to be addressed and that a CEMP would be the most sensible option for ensuring that potential issues are dealt with. The issue would not occur if works can be timed to avoid the overwintering bird season, October to March.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**

Specialist Environment Services

Economy, Transport and Environment Department

Hampshire County Council

Elizabeth II Court West

The Castle, Winchester

Hampshire SO23 8UD

Direct Line: 01962 832335

E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity