

Dear Lewis,

APP/21/00827 | Construction of four storey building comprising 8 supported living units (Class C3b) with 4No. car parking spaces following demolition of existing retail unit. | 9 East Street, Havant, PO9 1AA 21.0921

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Thank you for your patience.

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 GIS mapping. The existing site is within a town centre setting and therefore not likely to be of significant ecological value. The site has largely been cleared of built structures and vegetation. I do not therefore expect ecological assessments to be undertaken.

However, the site offers an opportunity for embedded biodiversity net gain and I would expect the proposal to include such measures. Given the location and the proposed height of the new structure I would insist upon the inclusion of nesting sites for Common Swifts. The scale of the building offers an opportunity for several built-in swift nesting units to be installed on the southern and northern elevations. These units are readily available from good suppliers, are inexpensive and can be matched to any façade. They create no mess. Units are installed at least 4m from ground level, ideally at a gable apex or beneath eaves/soffit/fascia level.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that the installation of swift nesting sites is secured by condition.

The new building shall incorporate a minimum of six built-in or externally-fitted nesting units for Common Swift. These units shall be installed in suitable locations as per manufacturer's instructions and retained in perpetuity in a location and condition suited to their intended purpose. 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**

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
Mobile: 07784 261774
E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Hampshire County Council's response to the Covid-19 is available here (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>).

In line with Government advice to reduce non-essential travel and work from home where possible, Ecology officers are now working remotely. Whilst we will endeavour to conduct our services in a timely manner and to meet statutory timescales where we can, there may be some impact to the services we deliver. We will ensure that we keep all applicants / interested parties informed of any further impacts to our services should they arise. The Council's response also means that no non-essential site visits or face to face meetings will be undertaken until further notice. Essential and contractual surveys may continue take place where there is no risk to the surveyor or the public, and in line with Government advice. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.