

Dear Bee,

APP/16/00469 | Replacement windows, replacement warm roof and cladding to the North block. | Oaklands RC School, Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7BW 16.0874

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

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information and I have therefore undertaken my own desk-based assessment using online sources, the application documents and GIS mapping. The building subject to works is a typical SCOLA-type structure with flat, felted roof and exterior cladding panels. Such buildings are not generally suitable for supporting e.g. roosting bats although the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out. Such buildings may support bats through the presence of small gaps or crevices within cladding or wall mortar: in my experience such features are often present on these types of structures. This building is in very close proximity to woodland which is known to support bats and so the potential is increased.

I would recommend that the applicant commissions a Phase 1 ecological survey of the site: this should include an assessment of the potential for the site to support protected species (to be provided by a qualified ecologist (see Natural England [guidance](#) on finding a suitably-qualified ecologist). The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (www.cieem.net) holds a database of suitably-qualified ecologists.

A Phase 1 ecological survey will determine whether there is any evidence of protected species or whether the site offers habitat suitable for supporting protected species, and whether the proposed works are likely to result in impacts to those habitats or species. Unless the consultant is able to conclude that there is no reasonable likelihood of protected species being present (due to negligible potential) or, that if present they are not to be impacted by the works, it is likely that further ecological survey work (Phase 2 survey) will be required prior to determination of the application. The results of any further surveys should be used to provide an assessment of the likely ecological impacts of the proposed works and to inform any mitigation measures.

NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice on Protected Species, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the LPA prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the LPA to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated, and are acceptable.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**