

Dear Heather,

APP/16/00583 | Demolition of existing stable block and erection of 1No. dwelling incorporating swimming pool and detached double garage. | Plot 1 - The Retreat, Croft Lane, Hayling Island 16.1112

Thank you for consulting me on this application. In summary, I consider that ecological information is required.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information and I have therefore undertaken my own, non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and recent GIS mapping. The proposals entail the demolition of the existing stables building as well as the loss of areas of semi-natural vegetation such as grassland and shrubs and there is potential for legally-protected species to occur, such as roosting bats, nesting birds and reptiles. The statement on bats within the submitted Environment Statement (Peter Hewlins Designs, May 2016) is not sufficient as evidence of a robust assessment for legally-protected species.

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**