

Dear Tina,

APP/25/00590 | Conversion of ground floor into a care home facility for 6 residents, incorporating some alterations at rear ground floor level, with 3No. supported living flats at first floor. | 18 East Street, Havant, PO9 1AQ

Thank you for consulting me on this application. I would not expect the application site to be of significant ecological interest and the proposed works do not appear to entail substantial disturbance of roof materials or any roof voids. I would welcome clarification on this latter point, please.

If it confirmed that none of the roof materials and no roof void areas will be affected by the redevelopment of this site then I would be content that no further ecological information is required. If this is not the case then I would recommend that the applicant carries out an ecological assessment, to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (www.cieem.net) holds a database of suitably qualified ecologists. An ecological assessment which will determine whether there is any evidence of protected and notable species, and whether the proposed works are likely to result in impacts to those species. Unless the qualified ecologist can 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 will be required prior to determination of any 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, compensation and enhancement measures.

In relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) the application states that the proposal meets the *de minimis* exemption based on the extent of habitat being affected. I am happy to agree with this statement.

The redeveloped site could readily incorporate ecological enhancement features. I would welcome the inclusion of at least two each of nesting boxes for Common Swift and bat boxes. The two gable ends at the southern elevation would be ideal locations for the nest boxes, and wall-mounted bat boxes could be fitted at first floor eaves level to the building's rear. I would recommend that these enhancement features are secured by the following condition:

The redeveloped site shall incorporate a minimum of two externally mounted nesting boxes for Common Swift and two externally mounted crevice bat roost boxes. These ecological enhancement features shall be installed in suitable locations as per manufacturer's instructions. Reason: to provide ecological mitigation and enhancement in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, 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

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