

From: Jenny Long [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2024 12:02
To: Planning Enquiries <planningenquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Attn: Eleanor Barry, ref: 241658/FH Alton Court Farmer, new carport and workshop

Dear Eleanor

Further to our recent correspondence about the Ecology objection for our carport and workshop construction our Ecologist has now carried out a site visit and does not think the Habitat Suitability Index or Bat primary Roost survey is necessary.

She feels that given the nature of the site and the work required, we could safely carry this out within the guidelines of the law under a "precautionary working method" which would assume there is a wildlife presence on site but put in place adequate measures to mitigate any affects. These would include:

Precautionary Method Statement

1. Carry out work during winter when wildlife are not active.
2. Ensure all works are clear before the active season restarts in spring.
3. Give all contractors a 'Tool box talk' to make them aware of what to do in the highly unlikely event that any protected species are found during the work. Works would stop and we would seek further Ecological advice immediately.
4. Consideration of the impact of noise and lighting on neighbouring habitats during the works and post development of the site. Creation of a buffer zone to prevent impacting adjacent habitats and any wildlife that may be present.
5. Install bat boxes on trees at other end of site to enhance the site for biodiversity and achieve a net gain.

She also noted that the stables, which sit on a concrete hardstanding, don't have the potential to support bats during the winter when the work will be undertaken. Plus the grass area between the hardstanding and our pond (the potential newt habitat) has always been kept short, so is highly unlikely to support a newt habitat.

The other ponds on neighbouring sites (which may have flagged up in any searches for presence of newts) are across roads, which are a significant barrier to dispersal. More suitable habitats for newts are located offsite and therefore newts are highly unlikely to be impacted by the proposed work.

Our Ecologist has advised that she can write all this in a formal report and help us to draw up and implement the Precautionary Method Statement. She has also offered to meet your Ecologist on site if required to discuss.

Would you be in agreement to all this being submitted in response to the Ecology Objection?

Kind regards
Jenny

Jenny Long
Alton Court Farm
Penyard Lane
Ross on Wye
HR9 5NR
Tel: [REDACTED]