

Ecology response amended for F/23/96317 BERRYWOOD BUSINESS VILLAGE, TOLLBAR WAY, HEDGE END

Relocation of front entrance with associated ramp and stairs for access. Installation of plant to the rear.

Rachael Morris

28/11/23

I have reviewed the additional site photos and the aerial photos available on Google maps 3D satellite images. The roof areas appear to be in good condition with no slipped tiles or openings. None of the vegetation on site would be affected by these proposals, which only affect existing areas of hard standing. The louvres above the window on the rear elevation would be the only concern, but I don't see any areas which are broken or out of position so it is not likely that bats would be using this area. As a precaution the following informative should be added to the decision letter:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

The existing equipment cabinets are on hard standing so great crested newts, grass snakes, stag beetles and hedgehogs are not likely to be using them for shelter. No vegetation will be impacted by these proposals. As a precaution, all site operatives must be made aware of the potential presence of these species. In the unlikely event that any protected species are found on site they should not be handled or disturbed but be allowed to move to a place of safety on their own. Any excavations or open pipes should be covered at night or fitted with a slanted rough board as a small animal escape ramp. Building materials must only be stored on hard standing and no fires can be lit on site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

24/11/23

This site is within an amber great crested newt impact risk zone. There are records of grass snakes, bats, stag beetles, and hedgehogs near this site.

Site photos are required to determine whether any habitat for these protected species would be affected by these proposals.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. (<https://www.bats.org.uk › our-work › putting-up-your-box>)

Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight.

(<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm> )

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

Lisa Malter, Ecologist