

69803 & 69812 – Barrack Fold Farm, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth

Thank you for forwarding the bat report.

Bats

A valid bat report has been provided. One of the buildings was assessed as low risk and one dusk survey carried out at an appropriate time of year, though late in the season. No evidence of bats roosting was recorded from either building and only very low levels of bat activity. I have no reason to doubt the findings of the report. The development appears therefore to have no adverse effect on any species of bats.

The consultant has however recommended precautionary measures during the development. These appear reasonable. *I therefore recommend that the method statement and reasonable avoidance measures section of the report are conditioned as part of any permission.*

Nesting Birds

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded. I have no reason to doubt the findings. I recommend an informative along the following lines is applied to any permission.

The applicant is reminded that, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended it is an offence to remove, damage, or destroy the nest of a wild bird, while the nest is in use or being built. Planning consent does not provide a defence against prosecution under this act. If a birds nest is suspected work should cease immediately and a suitably experienced ecologist employed to assess how best to safeguard the nest(s).

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Section 174 of the NPPF 2021 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. As enhancement I recommend that one bat box and one bird box are provided as mitigation/enhancement. *The details can be conditioned.*

Ecologist

GM Ecology Unit