

GMEU updated response

Bats

A valid bat report has been provided. The daylight survey assessed the building as having negligible bat roosting potential. I have no reason to doubt the findings of the report, the photographic evidence supporting the findings. As individual bats can on occasion turn up in unexpected locations, I recommend an informative along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Whilst the building to be demolished has been assessed as negligible risk for bats, the applicant is reminded that under the 2019 Regulations it is an offence to disturb, harm or kill bats. If a bat is found during demolition all work should cease immediately and a suitably licensed bat worker employed to assess how best to safeguard the bat(s). Natural England should also be informed.

Nesting Birds

No evidence of nesting birds was identified. I am satisfied that the risks are very low and can be dealt with via an informative along the following lines.

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).

My previous recommendations regarding mitigation and enhancement for loss of low ecological grassland still applies.