

## **Planning application 69996 The Smith, Ramsbottom**

### Summary

The developer's ecological consultant identified no significant ecological issues. Issues relating to bats, nesting birds and biodiversity enhancement measures can be resolved via condition and or informative.

### Bats

A valid bat report has been provided. This assessed the building as having moderate bat roosting potential and in-line with best practice two further emergence surveys carried out at an optimal time of year. No evidence of bats was found, I have no reason to doubt the findings of the report. 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 buildings to be converted have been assessed as low risk for bats, the applicant is reminded that under the Habitat Regulation it is an offence to disturb, harm or kill bats. If a bat is found 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

As for the previous application, no evidence of species such as house sparrow or starling nesting on the buildings was detected. No further information or measures are required.

### 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. No mitigation is required with regards vegetated habitats and wildlife. I recommend as enhancement one bat and one bird box. *The details can be conditioned.*

**David Dutton**

### Ecologist

Planning

Planning and Transportation

Place