

GMEU response

The application site is immediately adjacent to the Redisher Woods and Holcombe Brook Site of Biological Importance (SBI). GMEU would not consider that the proposed development will have a substantive effect on the special nature conservation value of the SBI, *providing* that precautions are taken during any demolition and construction works to avoid encroachment into the SBI. GMEU would therefore advise that a Demolition and Construction Environmental Method Statement should be required to be prepared giving details of the measures to be taken to prevent harm to the natural environment during works. The Method Statement could be required by Condition.

GMEU would accept the results of the bat survey(s) that the buildings to be demolished are unlikely to support a bat roost, but note that the surrounding habitat is excellent for bats. Bats can be very mobile in their habits, so advise the applicant that if bats are encountered at any time during works, work must cease and advice sought from a suitably qualified person about how best to proceed. All UK bats and their resting places carry a high level of legal protection.

The site would benefit from the installation of two or three bat roosting boxes, which would be a useful biodiversity enhancement of the site.

Ecologist
Planning
Planning and Transportation
Place