

GMEU response

Thank you for consulting GMEU on this application. Having examined the submitted plans and aerial photographs of the site, we consider that the proposals have very low ecological risk. We would therefore not require any ecology surveys to support this application.

We would however give the following advice

- Protected species can turn up in unexpected places and the granting of planning permission does not negate the need to abide by the laws which are in place to safeguard biodiversity. An informative should be used so that the applicant is aware that they must seek ecological advice should they find or suspect that the proposals will impact on protected species.
- Work that will impact on habitats where nesting birds may be present (for example works to buildings/demolition, works to/or removal of trees, hedgerow and other vegetation including undergrowth like bramble), should not be undertaken in the main bird nesting season (March – August) unless suitable checks for active bird nests have been undertaken.
- Planning policy encourages enhancements and net gains for biodiversity to be delivered through the planning system. Wherever possible measures to enhance the site for biodiversity should be secured as part of this planning application, and could include integration of bat or bird boxes into the building.