

Updated GMEU response

Bats

I am satisfied that the buildings are very low risk. I recommend an informative along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Whilst the buildings to be demolished have 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

My previous response still applies

Invasive Species

Himalayan balsam is present on one of the photographs. (614)I now therefore recommend a condition along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Prior to any earthworks a method statement detailing eradication and/or control and/or avoidance measures for himalayan balsam should be supplied to and agreed in writing to the LPA. The agreed method statement shall be adhered to and implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

And an informative along the following lines

It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended to introduce, plant or cause to grow wild any plant listed in Schedule 9 part 2 of the Act. Species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are included within this schedule. If any such species will be disturbed as a result of this development a suitably experienced consultant should be employed to advise on how to avoid an offence.

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

previous response still applies