

Summary

Potential ecological risk include bats and nesting birds. Both risks are however very low and can be dealt with via informatives.

Bats

Species such as common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) most commonly occur in buildings and prefer confined roost sites, such as soffit boxes, eaves or under hanging tiles. The most common roosts are found between underfelt and boards or tiles, and inside cavity walls. This development will impact on a small section of potential bat roosting habitat of a flat roofed single storey building, this will however be a very low risk structure and only a very small section will be impacted. I am therefore satisfied that the risks are very low and can be dealt with via an informative along the following lines.

Whilst the building to be extended is very low 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 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

Certain species of bird nest on buildings. I am however satisfied that in this instance the risk is negligible. 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. A small area of amenity grassland will be lost a low ecological value habitat. I recommend as mitigation a tree is planted or bird box erected somewhere around the school grounds. *The details can be conditioned.*