

Officer Liz Anderson – Ecologist

Date 06/10/25

Ref: 25/02204/FP

Att: Henry Thomas

Unit 1, Deans Yard, South Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6BZ

Redevelopment of site to provide 9 no. dwellings following demolition of existing buildings, to include access, parking, and landscaping.

Consultee comments;

Thank you for consulting me, having read through the submitted documents and there would be no ecological objection to the proposal.

I welcome the provision of the May 2025 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which does not recommend any further species surveys.

The application is not subject to mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain due to the existing site being predominantly hardstanding and shrubs on site not exceeding the threshold of 25 sqm of on-site habitat, or and/ less than 5 meters of linear habitats.

Pre-app advice recommended the inclusion of an ecological enhancement scheme which could incorporate species rich planting and bird and bee bricks in the fabric of the new dwellings. The draft biodiversity gain plan is noted and the creation of new garden land will be beneficial ecologically but I would also like to see the inclusion of bird and bee bricks, as such I suggest the following condition to ensure the scheme is delivered in accordance with North Herts Local Plan policy NE;

Ecological Enhancements

No development shall take place until an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) for the creation of new wildlife features such as the inclusion of integrated bird/bat and bee boxes in buildings/structures, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure development is ecologically sensitive and secures biodiversity enhancements in accordance with the North Herts Local Plan policy NE4.