

Officer Liz Anderson – Ecologist
Date 17/06/25

Ref: 25/01237/FP
Att: Andrew Hunter

Site Of Former N And P Windows, Bury Mead Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Change of use to a mixed-use car sales premises (Sui Generis) with open air storage for the display of vehicles for sale, erection of ancillary office/workshop building.

Consultee comments;

Thank you for consulting me, having read through the submitted documents I would have no ecological objection to the proposal.

The application is claiming a de-minimis exemption from mandatory BNG but the North Herts Local Plan also advises development should deliver biodiversity benefits. It is noted from streetview that some buddleia is present which would provide invertebrate interest. The new proposal includes the addition of a laurel hedge to the south. This provides little ecological benefit and the applicant is asked to consider an alternative species. Ideally a native hedgerow such as hawthorn or if an evergreen species is required privet is an option.