**From:** Charlotte Watkins
**Sent:** 05 January 2016 12:34
**To:** Emily Shaw
**Subject:** 15/01540/F St Georges Catholic church adderbury

Emily

With regard to the above application for demolition of the Church and erection of new dwellings, the submitted Ecological report is OK. It does not contain a background search of records however a look on our database shows the only protected species recorded within 200m are Otters on the Sor Brook which are unlikely to use this site (there are also several records of swifts nesting close by).

The site is relatively unsuitable for other protected species. The nearest ponds are nearly 200m away and separated by roads and expanses of residences so great crested newts are unlikely to be present. Hedgehogs could make use of the site however there are no hedgerows being lost  (that are mentioned) and generally this represents relatively poor foraging habitat for hedgehogs. I would consider the site too isolated from other good reptile habitats for a reptile population to be likely to be present, although individuals are always possible.

The bat survey assessed the potential for bats to be present as negligible and found no evidence of bat roosts. It would be advisable however for all contractors to be briefed regarding the protection given to bats and what to do if they discover one during works. Ideally the wooden roof shingles and soffits should be first removed by hand.

The culverting of the stream will result in some loss for wildlife on site through making a water source inaccessible and removing habitat for aquatic plants and invertebrates. It should be ensured that this culverting does not affect the flow of the stream beyond the site or cause additional pollution from runoff – I’m afraid I don’t have any knowledge in this area – maybe EA?  There should be some mitigation for this loss of opportunity for wildlife to avoid an overall loss of biodiversity on site. There appears to be no landscaping or room planned for planting within the plans. In line with NPPF recommendations and local policy we should be seeking biodiversity enhancements from developments. I would recommend therefore that they include at least two provisions for nesting birds on the gable ends or other appropriate aspects of the proposed building. House sparrow terraces or swift bricks may be suitable. They should also include native planting where possible with plants shown to be of value to invertebrates. Close boarded fencing on site should not be permitted to allow movement of wildlife into other gardens and adjacent open space. The addition of an invertebrate box on site would also help increase biodiversity value slightly.

I would recommend the following conditions and notes:

**K17 Biodiversity Enhancement**

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, including any demolition, and any works of site clearance, a method statement for enhancing biodiversity and ensuring no net loss of opportunities for biodiversity shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the biodiversity enhancement measures shall be carried out and retained in accordance with the approved details.

Reason KR3

**PN25 Bats**

Bats are a highly mobile species which move between a number of roosts throughout the year. All works must proceed with caution, all contractors should be briefed on the possibility of encountering bats and should any bats be found during the course of works all activity in that area must cease until a bat consultant has been contacted for advice on how to proceed. Removal of wooden roof shingles and soffits by hand would further reduce the chance of inadvertent injury to bats and is recommended. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitat and Species Regulations 2010 it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb, harm or kill bats or destroy their resting places.

Regards

Charlotte

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