

<b>Ecology Team Consultation Response</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	26.03.2026
<b>Planning Ref:</b>	4/26/2092/0F1
<b>Description:</b>	Demolition of former public house and rebuilding of new office facility.

The County Ecologist notes that this development is exempt from the Biodiversity Gain Condition due to the development likely being restricted to the building/hardstanding areas only. If this is to change whereby the threshold of 25m<sup>2</sup> of habitat is impacted, then this development will be in scope for BNG.

### **Suggested Planning Conditions**

#### ***Breeding Birds***

Works should be completed outside of the breeding bird period (March – August inclusive). If this is not possible a breeding bird check should be carried out no more than 48 hours prior to the planned development to ensure no birds and their nests are present. If active nests are discovered an appropriate buffer zone should be established and works within that area ceased until the young have naturally fledged.

#### ***Small Mammals***

All development work should be carried out with care to avoid small mammals such as hedgehogs. Contractors should be briefed about the potential presence of small mammals and should adopt the following precautionary method of works:

- All work must take place during daylight hours.
- Should any trenches and excavations be required, an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.
- All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling. Back filling should be completed immediately after any excavations, ideally back filling as an on-going process to the work in hand.
- Stored materials should be raised (i.e. stored on pallets) in order to ensure that wildlife such as hedgehogs do not shelter in the piles.

#### ***Bats***

A bats-specific lighting scheme will be designed during construction to minimise light impact. This should be in line with the guidance note for Bats and Artificial Lighting (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023).