

Date: 09 January 2013
Our ref: 73868
Your ref: PLAN/KK/WRE058



Kristina King
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8ZB

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms King

Planning consultation: Construction of a Temporary Primary School to provide places for up to 210 pupils

Location: Plot of Land off Lady Betty's Drive, Whiteley.

Thank you for your consultation dated 20 December 2012, which we received on 20 December 2012.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

This proposal does not appear to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes, or have significant impacts on the conservation of soils, nor is the proposal EIA development. It appears that Natural England has been consulted on this proposal to offer advice on the impact on a protected species.

Natural England's advice is as follows:

We have adopted national [standing advice](#) for protected species. As standing advice, it is a material consideration in the determination of the proposed development in this application in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation and should therefore be fully considered before a formal decision on the planning application is made.

The protected species survey has identified that bats, a European protected species may be affected by this application.

Our [Standing Advice Species Sheet: Bats](#) provides advice to planners on deciding if there is a 'reasonable likelihood' of bats being present. It also provides advice on survey and mitigation requirements.

The standing advice has been designed to enable planning officers to assess protected species surveys and mitigation strategies without needing to consult us on each individual application. The standing advice was issued in February 2011 and we recognise that it will take a little while for planners to become more comfortable with using it and so in the short-term will consider species surveys that affect European protected species against the standing advice ourselves, when asked for support by planners.

We have not assessed the survey for [badgers](#), [barn owls and breeding birds](#)¹, [water voles](#) or [white-clawed crayfish](#). These are all species protected by domestic legislation and you should use our

¹ Unless [protected](#) by Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

standing advice to assess the impact on these species.

How we used our standing advice to assess this bat survey and mitigation strategy

We used the advice at paragraph 8 on ["How up to date does a survey need to be?"](#) in Frequently Asked Questions on our Standing Advice pages and came to the following conclusion.

The ecological surveys carried out between 2008-2010 are more than 2-3 years old and therefore are not an up to date survey.

Natural England advises the authority that further survey effort is required in accordance with our protected species standing advice and you should request additional information from the applicant.

For future applications, or if further survey information is supplied, you should use our standing advice to decide if there is a 'reasonable likelihood' of protected species being present and whether survey and mitigation requirements have been met.

If you would like any advice or guidance on how to use our standing advice, or how we used the standing advice to reach a conclusion in this case, please contact us on the number above.

Yours sincerely

Bryn Pryce

Customer Service Consultation Team