ECOLOGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

12/0311 Property Business & Regulatory Services, HCC

File Reference	Staff Name	Case Officer
E26/PBRS	Megan Owen	Louis Niziolek

Consultation Number	Consultation Type	HCC Reference
Not known	Other types	Not known

Site Name

Hilliers Gardens

Details of proposal

Refurbishment of Outbuilding (Roberts Bungalow), Roof Void Bat Survey

INITIAL COMMENTS

Type of Response Concerns **Date of initial response** **29.03.12**

Louis,

Thank you for consulting us on this project.

From looking at the photos of the site, it is possible to say without looking at the site further that a licensed bat ecologist will need to inspect the building for bat roost potential. This inspection can be carried out at any time of year.

Given the nature of the building (unlined roof, open and accessible roof space), it may be possible that a definite positive or negative result can be obtained from this inspection. However, if there is an uncertain result, or further investigation of a roost is necessary, then surveys looking at bats exiting and re-entering the building will need to be carried out ('activity survey'). This will be essential if a license to carry out works that will disturb or destroy a bat roost is required. These surveys can be begun in May, but may extend further into the year dependant on the results of the inspection.

As this information is a material consideration of any planning application, this will need to be carried out prior to submission, as the planning authority can refuse on insufficient information, or ask you to withdraw the application. The inspection will not take very long, and if it is a straightforward result, then should not result in any delay.

The Framework Consultants will be able to carry out this work for you - the brief should request a bat inspection survey (they will need to know the particulars of the scheme), with potential for further activity surveys as required. We could look at the results of the initial survey for you to see if we agree with any recommendations that they provide. For further information about the consultants, I would suggest that you contact Paul Best in the first instance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further advice.

Megan Owen

Additional correspondence