
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 12:03 PM

Subject: RE: 2023/62/91649/E Demolition and Rebuild of Boundary Wall - 11 Wood Street, Skelmanthorpe

Assessment

Following on from my previous comments, additional communications have been reviewed and these update comments supersede the previously submitted ones. The site is located within the bat alert layer. At this stage, it is unclear whether the trees (particularly those to be lost to the proposed development) present within the site offer suitable roosting opportunities for bats.

In addition to bats, the trees on site that are scheduled to be removed are likely to provide suitable habitat for nesting birds.

The government circular on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005) and recent explanatory note from Natural England (Natural England, 2020) indicates that information on protected species, and in particular European protected species (including bats), should be made available prior to determination.

Advice to planning officer

The applicant should engage with a suitably qualified ecologist to undertake a bat scoping survey of the trees on the site. The survey should be undertaken in accordance with methods outlined by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Bat Roosts in Trees (Bat Tree Habitat Key (BTHK), 2018). The report of the above should cover whether there are potential impacts to roosting, commuting and foraging bats during and post-development i.e. as a result of new lighting provisions, due to the location of the site as a potential commuting route for bats.

The trees on site that are due to be removed are likely to provide suitability for nesting birds. It is recommended that these trees are inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist, prior to their removal.

The application should not be determined until the necessary assessments have been received.

Best wishes

Gareth

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