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CC/JHW/PG/3873C/1

11 October 2010

Watkin Jones Homes
55 Fford William Morgan
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 0JG

PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL
10 JAN 2012

For the attention of Mr J Berry

Dear Jason

EGERTON ROAD, FALLOWFIELD

Supplementary to the ecological report carried out at land off Egerton Road, Fallowfield, a specific bat survey in respect of the mature trees on site was carried out to determine usage by bats for the purposes of roosting. The survey was carried out on the morning of 29th September 2010 by two surveyors stationed at strategic locations in order to afford adequate viewpoints of all tree suitable for bat roosting. The survey commenced at 1.5 hours before dawn and continued until sunrise. Ultrasonic bat detectors were used to pick up any echolocation calls made by bats and trees were also observed for signs of any bats circling above, prior to entering any potential roosting sites. Weather conditions during the survey were acceptable for bat activity though somewhat on the cool side (minimum temperature recorded 10 degrees centigrade; little or no wind; no rain but relative humidity >80%). This was due to the relatively late part of the season and extended period of bad weather prior to survey.

During the survey period, several passes of common pipistrelle were recorded, both feeding round the site and commuting. Whilst this indicated that conditions were suitable for bat activity, no conclusive signs of entry or attempted entry to any potential roosting sites within any of the trees were recorded. Whilst this does not preclude bat roosting at other times of year, the results confirm that the trees in question are not being currently being used for roosting purposes.

As proposals are to remove the trees in question, it is recommended that, to ensure no bats are likely to be harmed or disturbed, no trees are removed prior to either the 1st November, or until night-time temperatures are maintained at a consistent mean temperature of below 5 degrees centigrade for at least three consecutive nights, whichever is the earlier. This should thereby ensure that any bats that may have begun to use the trees interim will have vacated the site in question and commenced using their winter roost sites elsewhere in preparation for hibernation. The rationale for this is that, whilst it is accepted that the trees on site are suitable for general bat roosting purposes, they are not considered suitable for hibernation purposes.

However, as a further precaution, it is recommended that (ideally under ecological supervision) sections of trees where extensive cavities are found to occur are first cut into large sections, carefully lowered to the ground by rope, and inspected for bats, prior to cutting into smaller sections. Should any bats be found or if there is any suspicion that any bats may remain, all such works should cease and further advice from a bat worker should be immediately sought.

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Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Crook CBiol MSB MIEEM
Principal Ecological Consultant

tba
landscape architects

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