



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: *Amanda Grout*

FROM: *Helen Forster*

DATE: *10 March 2023*

SUBJECT: *Westcourt County Primary School, Gravesend 20230041*

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the County Council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application; and whether sufficient and appropriate ecological information has been provided to assist in its determination.

Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the Planning Officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

No ecological information has been submitted with this planning application. From reviewing the satellite and google street view images it appears that most of the works are to be carried out on hard standing or impacting buildings which have limited potential to be used by roosting bats.

When we previously commented we raised concerns that it was unclear from the submitted information if any trees are to be cleared to facilitate the development. As the tree protection plan suggests that T1 and T2 will be removed as part of the development and confirms the root protection area of those trees.

We understand the trees are to be removed to facilitate the development and as a result of reviewing photos we advise that we are satisfied that bats are unlikely to roost within the buildings. We have taken this view as the photos indicate that they are in reasonable condition, their relatively small size and due to the artificial lighting within that area.

We recommend that trees are planted to replace the trees which will be lost as a result of the development.

If you have any queries regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Forster MCIEEM
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:
Tree Protection Plan; Sylvanarb; February 2023