



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: Kelly Joyce

FROM: Emma England

DATE: 13 June 2023

SUBJECT: 20230484 / Stavesacre Cottage, Gravesend

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 if sufficient/appropriate ecological information has been provided.

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 INFORMATION – MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

No ecological information has been submitted with this application. As a result of reviewing the data we have available to us, and the information submitted with the planning application, we advise that further information is sought from the applicant with regards to the potential for ecological impacts to arise.

Habitats and features (including the building to be extended and ancient woodland) are present on and around the site, indicating ecological value and the potential for protected species presence (e.g., roosting bats) that must be taken account of in the planning decision. As such, an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist¹, in accordance with good practice guidelines.

To ensure that the planning determination is adequately informed in respect of all potential ecological impacts, we advise that the EcIA is sought prior to determination of the planning application. This is in alignment with paragraph 99 of ODPM 06/2005 which states “*it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is*

¹ Suitably qualified ecologists can be found using either the: [CIEEM Registered Practice Directory](#) or the [Environmental Data Services Directory](#).

granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision”.

The EclA will also ensure alignment with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) Act 2006. Under section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 and paragraph 174 of the NPPF 2021, biodiversity should be maintained and enhanced through the planning system. Additionally, in alignment with paragraph 180 of the NPPF 2021, the implementation of measurable net gains for biodiversity (integrated as part of design) should be encouraged. As such, we advise that information is submitted with the EclA to demonstrate that the development can achieve a biodiversity net gain.

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

Emma England
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:

Planning Portal (May 2023) Location Plan. Stavesacre Cottage, Longfield Avenue, Gravesend, DA13 9HP.

TA Architects (May 2023) Existing Site Location Block Plans and Proposed Block Plan.