

APP/17/01036 | Erection of 1No. 2 bed bungalow to land rear of 60 Fir Copse Road. | Land rear of 60 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville, PO7 5HZ 18.1030

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The proposal would result in a net increase of one dwelling within 5.6km of the Solent SPA/Ramsar sites and will therefore be required to contribute financially to strategic mitigation measures through the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP). In light of a recent Court of Justice of the European Union judgement, Havant Borough Council will need to ensure that it carries out an appropriate assessment of the suitability of the SRMP in addressing recreational impacts to the Solent SPA/Ramsar sites.

In terms of the application site, this is situated immediately adjacent to Sandy Dell SINC, a small area of remnant ancient semi-natural woodland. Whilst no direct impacts to the SINC woodland are anticipated, construction-phase impacts such as noise and dust could result in disturbance to the SINC's sensitive flora and fauna. The potential for various protected/notable species to occur has been assessed and no further detailed surveys are considered necessary.

It is unclear whether the small watercourse to the east is to be modified as part of this proposal. If so, then details of the proposed works (extent, purpose, methods) should be provided now and the applicant's ecologist should provide comment on how ecological gain can be achieved.

The planting scheme for the developed site must certainly not use either cherry laurel or 'Russian ivy' (presumably Russian vine?): both are highly invasive and entirely inappropriate adjacent to a native woodland site. Native alternatives must be used in this location.

In summary, additional clarification is required on some aspects of the proposal. NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice on Protected Species, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the LPA prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the LPA to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated, and are acceptable.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist