

Houghton, Michelle

From: Norton, Tristan <Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 March 2019 14:44
To: Ballam, Rachel
Cc: Havant Planning and Development Mailbox New
Subject: APP/18/00380 Southmere Farm, The Mallards, Havant 19.0331

Dear Rachel,

APP/18/00380 | Outline application for the construction of 3No. two storey detached dwellings, following demolition of existing buildings. | Southmere Farm, The Mallards, Havant 19.0331

Thank you for consulting me on this application. I am aware that substantial works were carried out to the banks of the brook adjacent to the site recently. These works were clearly not in accordance with the previously-submitted ecological recommendations and are highly likely to have degraded the ecological value of the brook and its bankside habitats. Such action is wholly unacceptable, especially where planning permission is granted on an understanding between all parties that ecological features will be protected from damage and disturbance. Species likely to be inhabiting the brook receive full legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and damage to habitats and harm to species is an offence.

The application is now accompanied by a Wildlife Protection and Habitat Enhancement Scheme (David Leach, February 2019). This report clearly states that damage to riparian habitats has resulted from development works. It is therefore imperative that no further damage or disturbance is caused and that a proportionate strategy for remediation and ongoing protection is secured.

A series of recommendations are provided for the brook. This includes the regrading of the bank to a depth of two metres, providing a securely fenced 8m-wide buffer between the banks and construction zone, and native riparian plantings. A Construction Environment Management Plan is also recommended.

It is my understanding that any works within 8m of a watercourse require Environment Agency permission and therefore I would recommend that the EA's advice is sought before any further works occur. In principle, I would support some gentle regrading of the banks but only if the previous works have resulted in changes to the original bank profile: any further disturbance would only add to the damage already caused. My preference would be for natural regeneration of riparian vegetation rather than new plantings, although I understand that this would provide some relatively immediate compensation for the damage caused to date.

I am fully supportive of the recommended enhancement measures such as bat and bird boxes: these should be implemented as described.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**

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Hampshire Services offers a range of professional consultancy services to partner organisations. Specialist Environment Services provides data, advice and assessments for ecology, heritage and landscape.

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