

2nd November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning Application at 11 Bound Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire

Planning permission has been granted for a residential housing development of 8 residential houses (APP/16/00327). This letter has been written to support a new planning application for 10 residential dwelling. The additional 2 dwelling result from two of the detached dwellings being altered to form two semi-detached properties. The footprint of the housing and associated infrastructure will remain the same as the extant permission.

An update ecological walkover survey was undertaken on 3rd September 2016 to ensure that no significant ecological changes had occurred since the initial ecological surveys undertaken by Verdant Ecology in 2015. No significant changes in the ecological value of the site were noted at the time of the survey although an annual haycut had recently been undertaken to the majority of the semi-improved grassland on site. The site supports semi improved grassland, buildings and hardstanding, scrub and ornamental planting. The previous surveys undertaken by Verdant Ecology identified the site as supporting a good population of slow worm, low levels of foraging and commuting by bats, breeding birds and the site also has potential to be used on occasion by hedgehogs.

Impacts and Mitigation

The proposed change in number of residential dwellings from the extant permission will not have any significant change in ecological impacts as the extant permission as the building footprints remain the same. However, below is a summary of the proposed mitigation measures. These measures are also illustrated in Figure 1 attached.

Breeding Birds

The site contains habitat suitable for a variety of nesting birds and although most of the site clearance will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March- August inclusive), it is likely that some vegetation clearance may need to be undertaken at other times. The following measures will be implemented to ensure that nesting birds are protected during the construction phase.

Prior to commencement of construction or site preparation works a tool box talk will be undertaken to provide contractors with information on the protection afforded to nesting birds, where nesting birds might be encountered and measures to minimise the risk or impact on nesting birds.

Clearance of any vegetation shall be conducted outside the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive) to avoid disturbing or injuring birds that may be nesting within them. Where this is not possible then the works shall be immediately proceeded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

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New nesting habitat will be provided in the form of new native and hedgerow planting and tree planting. However, it is advisable that, to ensure no net loss in nesting habitat that a minimum of four nest boxes should be installed as part of the scheme. Below are details of the bird box scheme that will be implemented as part of these proposals subject to agreement with the local planning authority.

These bird boxes have been chosen for their durability as they are made of woodcrete and have a predicted lifespan of around 20 years plus and the specification includes models that will be used by species which are known or are likely to use the site. The tree boxes must be installed at least 2m from the ground and away from any features that could allow a predator access into the box such as a wall or fence.

The location of the 4 bird boxes is provided in Figure 1. The specification for these boxes is as follows:

- 1x Schwegler 1B 26mm hole woodcrete bird box
- 1x Schwegler 1B 32mm hole woodcrete bird box
- 1x Schwegler 2H Robin woodcrete box
- 1x Schwegler 2GR Oval Entrance

Bats

There will be a small reduction in the number of trees on site. To ensure that there is no loss of roosting opportunities on site post development 2 bat boxes will be installed on retained trees on site (Figure 1). Woodcrete boxes have a life of at least 20 years. All bat boxes will be installed at least 4m from the ground on retained trees and preferably on a southerly aspect.

These will include the following specification of bat box which have been chosen as they will support a range of species which are present on site:

- 1x Schwegler 1FD
- 1x Schwegler 2F

The lighting scheme will ensure that there is no light spillage onto any of these boxes or nearby vegetation.

All moderate or high bat potential trees on site must be climbed by a bat ecologist trained in aerial rescue to look for evidence of roosting bats immediately prior to any extensive remedial measures or removal. One tree, a cherry, is to be subject to climbed inspections and is marked in pink in Figure 1.

Prior to commencement of construction or site preparation works a tool box talk will be undertaken to provide contractors with information on the protection afforded to bats, where bats may be found and what they look like and measures to minimise the risk or impact on roosting bats.

Reptiles

Key areas of reptile habitat on the site are to be retained around the boundary of the site. These areas had the majority of reptile sightings during the reptile presence/absence survey. The edges of these habitat areas will be affected and their extent reduced in some cases.

To ensure that no reptiles are harmed during site clearance a translocation scheme is required to remove reptiles from the active construction zone and relocate them in enhanced



habitat retained as part of the scheme. Reptile fencing will be installed around the edge of the construction zone and a minimum 30-day translocation exercise will be undertaken during the active reptile season and in suitable weather conditions.

A mosaic of rough grassland and scrub patches will be provided post development around the edge of the development. These areas will be subject to minimal management post development apart from biannual cuts to maintain grassland diversity.

New hedgerows will be provided along all boundaries to ensure that there is connectivity for reptiles and other species across the whole site and to all areas of suitable habitat.

A minimum of 2 habitat piles should be created in multiple areas of the site. Habitat piles are to be located in a variety of both part shaded and sunny positions, within long grass adjacent to areas of scrub habitat. Habitat piles can be created from native broadleaved tree trunks and branches.

Prior to commencement of construction or site preparation works a tool box talk will be undertaken to provide contractors with information on the protection afforded to reptiles and amphibians, where they may be found, how to identify them and measures to minimise the risk or impact on individual common reptiles and amphibians.

Hedgehogs

Prior to commencement of construction or site preparation works a tool box talk will be undertaken to provide contractors with information on the protection afforded to other protected mammals, what habitats they may be found in, how to identify them and their homes and measures to minimise the risk or impact on them. If any mammal holes are found during site clearance, then an Ecologist will be contacted immediately to identify the species using it and will then provide advice on the constraints.

During construction, all areas of the site will have all trenches and excavations covered overnight to prevent any animals falling in and becoming trapped. Where it is not possible to cover the excavations then planks will be placed in the holes overnight to allow animals to climb out in the unlikely event that they fall in.

Where new fencing will be put in place to delineate the boundary of site and plots this should ideally consist of a hedgerow rather than a fence. However, for security reasons some fencing will be required and without specific mammal access points this will reduce the ease of mammals moving across the site. Therefore, formalised mammal access points will be required. Where the fencing is closed board fencing a hole at least 200mm (H) by 200mm (W) will need to be cut into the gravel board at ground level.

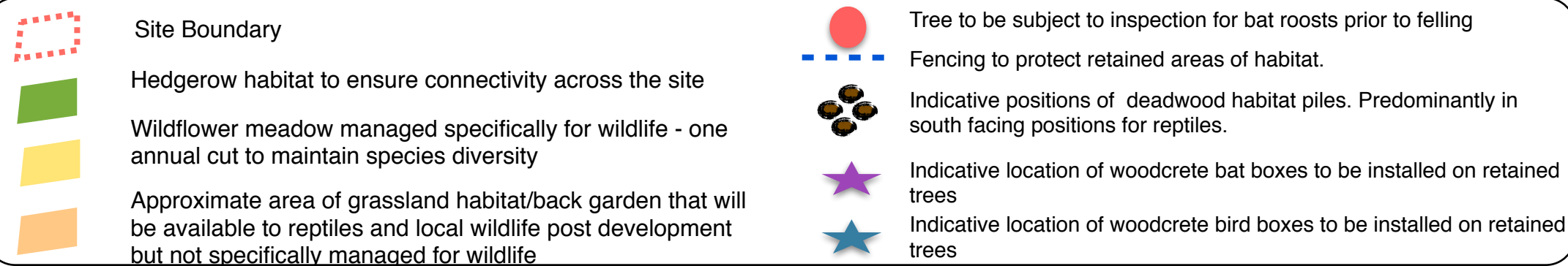
These mitigation and compensation measures will ensure that the long term ecological value is maintained and as such the new planning application continues to be compliant with local and national biodiversity related planning policy.

Yours Faithfully,

Nadine Clark
Ecologist BSc MSc MCIEEM



***NOTE** Areas are indicative and are not shown to exact scale.



Project: 11 Bound Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire

Figure 1 -Ecological Mitigation Plan