

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/22/00541

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/22/00541

Address: Land opposite Copsewood House, Copse Lane, Hayling Island

Proposal: Lawful development certificate for the existing use of the land for the siting of mobile homes and the re-instatement of a mobile home

Case Officer: Tina Pickup

Consultee Details

Name: Mr Tristan Norton

Address: Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UD

Email: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk

On Behalf Of: County Ecologist

Comments

Dear Tina,

APP/22/00541 | Lawful development certificate for the existing use of the land for the siting of mobile homes and the re-instatement of a mobile home | Land opposite Copsewood House, Copse Lane, Hayling Island 22.1064

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The site is situated within North Copse Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), listed as an area of semi-natural woodland of ancient origin (but too small to be listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory). It is clear that the site has been subject to mismanagement/damage in the past, with various pieces of now-derelict infrastructure present plus woodland clearance having taken place. These actions will undoubtedly have damaged the ecological value of this fragment of ancient woodland, a very scarce habitat on Hayling Island.

In essence, I have no fundamental issue with a new/replacement mobile home being sited here within an existing clearing: it is unlikely that this area is of high ecological value at the current time and a single static home would not be likely to cause further damage. From an ecological perspective, the most appropriate action would be to remove all other detritus and to allow the natural regeneration of the woodland. Tree planting is not recommended in principle: there will be ample existing stock to facilitate natural regeneration, although certain species e.g. non-native shrubs such as laurel may require targeted removal. Ancient woodlands should not be subject to artificial lighting or hard surfacing e.g. for access.

In summary, this is an opportunity to try and restore the biodiversity value of this ancient woodland

and if this can be facilitated through permitting a single static home then that would be a beneficial outcome overall. I would welcome further details on how the site will be restored and its biodiversity value enhanced.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team
Specialist Environment Services
Economy, Transport and Environment Department
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