

Dear Lesley,

APP/22/00669 | Outline planning application with all matters reserved (except for access) for the development of up to 140 residential dwellings (C3 Use), with access from Meyrick Road, the provision of open space, landscaping and other associated works including demolition of existing buildings on site. | Land at Kingscroft Farm adjacent to Ridgway and, Marples Way, Havant 22.1029

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (EcoSupport, May 2022) and a Reptile Survey report (EcoSupport, June 2022). I note that surveys for bats and Hazel Dormouse are ongoing: the results of these surveys, and any mitigation measures necessary, will be required prior to determination.

The proposed development will occur within the large open areas of grassland in the eastern half of the surveyed area. These areas are stated as comprising grazed, species-poor grassland. Section 5.2.1 of the report states '*subject to further botanical investigation the majority of the site shows limited ecological value,...*'. I am unsure if this means that further assessment is proposed or not and would welcome clarification.

The fields immediately west of the site are botanically interesting, and are best described as floodplain pasture with saline elements. These pastures are mapped as the Priority Habitat Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh. There are a number of interesting plant records from these grazed fields, indicating a species-rich grassland flora. Although not included within the proposed development area, I am concerned that development could affect local hydrological conditions and result in botanical changes and it is not yet clear whether this has been considered. The botanical interest of these fields is maintained through the underlying geology and hydrological conditions but also crucially by continued grazing.

The northern/western boundary of the site is adjacent to the Hermitage Stream, a valuable watercourse of high ecological value. There is potential for development proposals to result in impacts (direct and indirect) on the stream and its riparian habitats and the species associated with them.

The application is lacking detail on ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancements. Whilst this is indeed an outline application it is essential that the framework for ecological mitigation is provided now in order that ecological impacts can be assessed by the Local Planning Authority.

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
Ecology Team**

Specialist Environment Services
Economy, Transport and Environment Department
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court West
The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UD
Mobile: 07784 261774
E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Hampshire County Council's response to the Covid-19 is available here (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>).



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.

www.hants.gov.uk/sharedexpertise



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Please note that this advice is given in accordance with the Service Level Agreement that has been signed between Hampshire County Council and your Council. These comments are expressed as a professional view provided to Havant Borough Council and should not, therefore, be interpreted as those of Hampshire County Council.