

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/20/01221

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/20/01221

Address: Land to the west of B&Q, Purbrook Way, Havant

Proposal: Erection of retail foodstore with associated car parking, access, landscaping and engineering works.

Case Officer: Lewis Oliver

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 Lewis,

APP/20/01221 | Erection of retail foodstore with associated car parking, access, landscaping and engineering works. | Land to the west of B&Q, Purbrook Way, Havant 22.0376

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by Ecological Technical Note (RPS, 8 February 2022) and amended landscape drawings and specification. The site comprises an area of dense scrub and rough grassland situated at the edge of an existing commercial development. The site sits within an immediate landscape dominated by woodland, with a large number of woodland Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) present. The grassland on site is reasonably species-rich, with two orchid species noted amongst a range of other herbaceous plants.

The scrub habitat is linked to areas of scrub and woodland off-site and then connected to the areas of woodland in the surrounding area. Surveys for Hazel Dormouse during 2020/21 recorded no evidence of this species and therefore the applicant is justified in assuming absence within the site. However, the surrounding landscape does support this declining species and the proposed site should, as a matter of ecological best practice, provide landscape enhancements to encourage dormice.

There is no evidence to suggest that the site is particularly important to local bat species and it does not appear to support numbers of mouse-eared bat species such as Bechsteins Bat.

Further landscaping details have resulted in a much improved layout, utilising areas of appropriate

native tree, shrub and grassland/herbage vegetation. Potentially invasive ornamental species have been removed and this is welcome. The addition of boxes for Hazel Dormice and bats is also welcome.

Overall, I am now content that the proposed scheme provides a much better outcome for the existing site biodiversity and for biodiversity more generally. If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that all ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are secured by condition.

Development shall proceed in accordance with the ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures detailed within the submitted Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (RPS, October 2020), Dormouse and Bat Survey report (RPS, September 2021) and Ecological Technical Note (RPS, 8 February 2022) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. All measures shall be implemented as per ecologists instructions and ecological enhancement features shall be retained in perpetuity in the agreed locations. Reason: to protect biodiversity in accordance with the Conservation Regulations 2017, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the NERC Act (2006), NPPF and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

If you have any queries please dont 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