

Dear David,

APP/20/00658 | Proposed development of 175 apartments together with associated access, parking and landscaping. | Proposed Development site (former Electricity Board site), Bartons Road, Havant 21.1182

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Thank you for your patience.

The application plans have been amended to show some of the proposed ecological enhancements presented within the ecological assessment. I have the following comments:

The proposed wildflower grassland is stated as being for calcareous soils. The site sits within a non-calcareous landscape of underlying clay, sands and gravels. Any proposed wildflower grassland should reflect the underlying geology, and a neutral-soil seed mix should be used: this will be better suited to the local conditions and be much more likely to establish. I would also advise against the sowing of a cornfield annual 'nurse crop': this is an unnecessary step and most 'cornfield annual' seed mixes contain a range of non-native annual species not appropriate to the Hampshire landscape. A better ecological enhancement is to ensure that a locally-appropriate grassland is established, subject to ongoing management to increase species-richness. No detailed information has been provided on establishment, aftercare and longer-term management of this wildflower grassland.

The amended elevations include locations of integral bat and bird boxes. Again, the number included (two of each on each block) is unambitious for such a large site with tall buildings. There is an opportunity for many more such features at leaves height on the tallest structures.

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

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