

Michelle Houghton

From: Norton, Tristan <Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 May 2016 15:29
To: David Eaves
Cc: Planning and Development Shared Mailbox; Havant Auto-Reply
Subject: APP/16/00347 | Erection of 26 residential units with associated works, access, parking and landscaping. | Purbrook School Former Playing Fields Stakes Road Waterloooville 16.0734

Dear David,

APP/16/00347 | Erection of 26 residential units with associated works, access, parking and landscaping. | Purbrook School Former Playing Fields Stakes Road Waterloooville 16.0734

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and a Phase 2 Ecological Assessment (both ECOSA, October 2015) which provide a useful assessment of the site's current ecological value. The preliminary appraisal identified that the site is generally of limited ecological value but that further survey effort was justified for foraging/commuting bats and common reptile species.

The further survey effort recorded no reptiles and a limited number and variety of foraging/commuting bat species (although it is recognised that the surveys were carried out at the end of the recognised optimal survey season). I am content to agree with the findings of the surveys and the site is overall of limited ecological value. Whilst there are numerous records of hazel dormice form locations both east and west of this site, there is generally an absence of suitable connecting habitat and I am in agreement that potential is unlikely. I would, as a point of principle, question the validity of conducting meaningful assessments of ponds for great crested newt potential using aerial photography: certainly the photography I have access to (dating to 2013) is high quality but still not of sufficient resolution to enable any robust conclusions to be made. It would be good practice to visit ponds within the potential zone of influence. That said, one of the ponds is situated within dense development and the other is a very small garden-type pond – whilst not entirely unsuitable I am willing to concur that further survey works would not be fully justifiable.

Therefore, if you are minded to grant permission can I recommend that ecological mitigation measures are secured by condition:

Development shall proceed in accordance with the ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures detailed within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and a Phase 2 Ecological Assessment (both ECOSA, October 2015) unless agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any such measures shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed details and secured in perpetuity, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: to provide ecological protection and enhancement in accordance with the Conservation Regulations 2010, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, NPPF, NERC Act 2006 and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

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
Direct Line: 01962 832335
E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity



Our Environmental Data and Advice Service (EDAS) provides a combined multi-disciplinary assessment for any site in Hampshire. For more information please visit www.hants.gov.uk/edas or email edas@hants.gov.uk

 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.

*** This email, and any attachments, is strictly confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended only for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or other use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender. Any request for disclosure of this document under the Data Protection Act 1998 or Freedom of Information Act 2000 should be referred to the sender. [disclaimer id: HCCStdDisclaimerExt] ***