**APP/15/00228 Outline application foe the construction of 4No. detached 3 bed chalet style bungalows with approval for access and layout with all other Reserved Matters. 41-49 Frogmore Lane, Waterlooville, PO8 9QN 15.0378**

Thank you for consulting me on this application. In summary, I consider that further information is still required.

The application is now accompanied by a latter dated 22nd April 2015 by Mr Brian Masterton of Haven Wildlife Communications. The letter unfortunately displays a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of the LPA ecologist within the planning process, and the requirement for applicants to provide sufficient detail of all ecological matters, especially where these include impacts to legally-protected species.

As I discussed previously, it is a basic tenet of ecological reporting that the methods (in this case dates, number of survey visits etc.) are included within any report submitted for planning. I did not, in fact, suggest that twenty survey visits were required but merely pointed out that the number of visits actually undertaken was not known, and then highlighted the current industry best practice requirements. If seven visits were deemed acceptable then the report should have stated so and provided justification.

As Mr Masterton proposes translocation of reptiles to third party land, he is obliged to provide full details of that arrangement. In common with any other similar situation, the LPA expects to see written confirmation that the third party is aware of the arrangement and agrees that translocation can proceed. There should be details of the receptor site and why it is deemed suitable for supporting additional animals – this is basic good practice and legally-protected species should not be transported large distances without sufficient details being provided.

Having now spoken with the rangers at Alver Valley, it is my understanding that these animals will not now be going to Gosport at all and that a final receptor site has not therefore been identified. Good ecological practice would suggest that a receptor site should be within close proximity to the donor site rather than in a different borough.

In summary, I consider that further details of the proposed receptor site and the agreement of the third party are required if the LPA is to have confidence that animals will be translocated to a suitable site.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

**Tristan Norton**

**Senior Ecologist**
**Ecology Team**