

Dear Tina,

APP/25/00840 Construction of an attached two-storey 1 bed (2 person) dwellinghouse with associated extended vehicular access and parking together with porch to existing dwelling (No.19). | 19 Corhampton Crescent, Havant, PO9 3BX

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information. I have therefore carried out my own non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and GIS mapping.

The applicant has submitted a Biodiversity Statement – this is not a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment (see comments below in relation to BNG) and it is unclear what document the 'Biodiversity Action Plan' mentioned in the statement is referring to. This statement contains a series of proposed measures, including an unfounded statement that the proposal will result in a 100% net gain in biodiversity – no assessment of the site's biodiversity value has been carried out. It is not clear which of these measures is to be implemented – none of the submitted plans show any of these measures. The proposed three fence-mounted nest boxes for Black Redstart are unsuitable – this species will not nest in gardens nor use boxes placed on garden fences. Three nest boxes would be welcome, but these are best placed on the dwelling, away from cats, to be used by common garden species rather than nationally very rare birds.

I can confirm that if Havant Borough Council considers the proposal to meet the requirements for Self-Build and Custom-Build CIL relief then it would indeed also be exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). I am content that the existing dwelling is not likely to be of ecological value. No further ecological survey information is necessary.

The Council very much expects new developments to provide biodiversity enhancements, but it is not possible at this stage to determine exactly what is being proposed in this regard.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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