



Wednesday 19th August

**Subject: Objection to Planning Application Number: APP/26/0075
Proposed Development at 13 Frogmore Lane, Waterloooville, PO8 9QN**

Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing to object to the above planning application because of the proposed development's potential effects on badgers, bats, owls and their supporting habitats. The site and surrounding land provide habitat and movement corridors for protected and ecologically important species.. The proposal appears likely to reduce or fragment habitat through vegetation clearance, construction, increased lighting, noise, traffic and permanent development.

In the redacted Planning Application Form, under the title 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' it has been marked as no protected and priority species on the development site or on the land adjacent to or near the proposed development, this is not the case.

Our garden is to the rear of the proposed development, and is adjacent to it, albeit above' the dell'.

As avid wild life watchers we have used a trail camera for many years to observe the wild life that share our garden. Over this time, we have been fortunate enough to have seen many fox families, slow worms, tawny owls, bats and as of five months ago we were delighted to see badgers visiting our garden. We would welcome a visit from a planning officer so we can show the routes the badgers use, and show the footage we have which is dated.

Our Grounds for Objection are:

1. Insufficient ecological information

The application should not be determined until the applicant has submitted an up-to-date Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, followed by all species-specific surveys recommended by a suitably qualified ecologist.

These should include:

- Badger surveys covering setts, paths, foraging areas and links with adjoining land.
- Bat surveys covering roosting potential, activity, commuting routes and feeding habitat.
- Breeding-bird and owl surveys, including an assessment of nesting and foraging habitat. A habitat survey identifying hedgerows, mature trees, woodland edges and other features supporting wildlife

2. Harm to badgers and their habitat

I am concerned that the proposed development could affect the badgers through:

- Loss of foraging habitat.

- Obstruction or fragmentation of established routes.
- Disturbance from excavation, piling, lighting and machinery.
- Damage to known or previously unidentified setts.

A competent badger survey and impact assessment should therefore be required before planning permission is considered.

3. Effects on bats

Trees and hedges and habitat edges may provide bat roosts, do provide feeding grounds and commuting corridors. Their removal, illumination or fragmentation could materially reduce the ecological function of the site, even if no roost is found within the proposed building footprint.

4. Effects on owls and other nesting birds

The site may provide owls with nesting, do provide roosting and hunting opportunities. The loss of mature trees, scrub, hedgerows and woodland margins reduce these opportunities and affect the prey species on which owls depend.

5. Habitat loss and fragmentation

The proposal should be assessed not only by the area of habitat removed, but also by its ecological function. Small areas of hedgerow, scrub, mature trees and grassland can collectively form important links between roosts, setts, nesting sites and feeding areas.

The development may cause:

- Permanent habitat loss and degradation.
- Fragmentation of wildlife corridors.
- Disturbance from noise and human activity.
- Increased artificial lighting.

The wildlife in this area has already been impacted and habitats lost by the development of two large properties adjacent to our garden therefore we request that this application be **refused or deferred** unless and until:

1. Complete and seasonally appropriate ecological surveys have been submitted and independently assessed.
2. The presence and use of the site by badgers, bats, owls and other nesting birds have been properly established.
3. The proposal has been redesigned to retain mature trees, hedgerows, habitat corridors, feeding areas and dark routes.

4. All significant ecological effects have been avoided or adequately mitigated.

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Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.