

**From:** David Dutton <david.dutton@tameside.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 October 2022 12:16  
**To:** Clapworthy, Dean <D.Clapworthy@bury.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Planning application 68824 Woodgate Hill Reservoir

Hi Dean

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

#### Summary

There are unlikely to be any significant ecological issues associated with this development.

#### Great Crested Newts

Surveys were carried out for great crested newts. No evidence of great crested newt was found, the pond with historic records just over 250m from the development dry at the time of the survey. Given no ponds were present within 250m and the scale of the development, no further information or measures are required.

#### Badger

It was noted that badger could forage over the site and that a precommencement search would be advisable. However, given the scale of the development and nature of the site, primarily hardstanding I would regard this as unreasonable and that at most all that is required is an informative along the following lines.

***The applicant is reminded that under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett. If a badger sett is found on or near the developments site work should cease immediately and a suitably experienced ecologist employed to advise on how best to proceed.***

#### Nesting Birds

It was noted that the land around the site was suitable for ground nesting birds. Given the restricted access to the site, I accept that this is possible. All British birds nests and eggs (with certain limited exceptions) are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. I recommend a condition along the following lines be applied to any permission.

***Development shall not commence between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August in any year unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to development and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the LPA.***

#### Other Wildlife

Reasonable avoidance measures for other amphibians and hedgehog have been recommended. Again the risks appear to be very low given the scale and nature of the site. However, I see no reason why the measures recommended in the report should not be applied. ***I therefore recommend the measures in section 7, conclusions are conditioned.***

#### Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Section 174 of the NPPF 2021 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. The proposed landscaping of native trees in my opinion is adequate to mitigate for the small loss of low ecological value grassland. ***The landscape proposals can be conditioned.***

**David Dutton**

**Ecologist**

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