

From: David Dutton
Sent: 06 April 2023 11:23
To: Booth, Claire
Subject: Planning application 69051 Land north of 2 Hollins Close

Hi Claire

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

Summary

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

Protected Species

I accept that it is very unlikely that there are any protected species issues associated with this development. No further information or measures are required.

Nesting Birds

There is limited bird nesting habitat present, the trees that were present cleared a few years ago (based on google earth). There is still however a hedge noted on the habitat survey and as this is an outline application, by the time a reserved matters application came forward, bramble scrub may have colonised. I therefore recommend that a standard bird nesting condition is applied along the following lines.

No works to trees or shrubs shall occur between the 1st March and 31st August in any year unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to clearance and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the LPA.

Other Wildlife

Currently the site has been assessed as providing limited potential for species such as hedgehog and no ponds are nearby to the site. As for nesting birds, as this is an outline application, the site may improve for such species. Currently however the risks are very low. I therefore recommend an informative along the following lines is applied to any permission.

The applicant is reminded that, under the Wild Mammal (Protection) Act 1996 it is an offence to inflict unnecessary suffering to wild mammals. Planning consent does not provide a defence against prosecution under this act.

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. Currently the site has only low ecological value and I accept that site clearance was over three years ago and therefore only a minor material consideration. I recommend however ecological mitigation is maximised through inclusion of a native hedge between the development and golf course at least one native tree and inclusion of bird and bat boxes or bricks within the new dwelling if permission is granted. *The details can be conditioned for provision as part of reserved matters.*

David Dutton

Ecologist

Planning

Planning and Transportation

Place

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