

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

Summary

The developer's ecological consultant identified no significant ecological issues. Issues relating to nesting birds, invasive species and biodiversity enhancement measures can be resolved via condition and or informative.

Protected Species

The site was assessed for protected species. No evidence of any such species including badger (known to be present in the wider locality) was found. I have no reason to doubt the findings of the report. No further information or measures are required.

Nesting Birds

The development will result in the loss of trees and scrub, potential bird nesting habitat. 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.

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.

Invasive Species

Himalayan balsam and monbretia were recorded on the site. Species such as Himalayan balsam and monbretia are included within schedule 9 part 2 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. It is an offence to introduce or cause to grow wild any plant listed under this schedule. I recommend a condition along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Prior to any earthworks a method statement detailing eradication and/or control and/or avoidance measures for himalayan balsam and monbretia should be supplied to and agreed in writing to the LPA. The agreed method statement shall be adhered to and implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Section 170 of the NPPF 2019 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. The development will result in the loss of a small number of trees, scrub and ruderal habitat. What appears to be an overgrown garden. Habitats of moderate ecological value. The majority of the trees and shrubs on site will be retained and re-landscaped. The proposals appear reasonable a mix of native and non-native which given the location are acceptable, though I would prefer more locally native species and less non-native. I accept however that mitigation could be achieved on site. Nest boxes should however also be provided. ***The details can be conditioned.***

Ecologist

GM Ecology Unit