

17 Jan 23 Ecology response for F/22/93907 CHURCH FARM, HOUND ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FS

Extension of existing Gypsy and traveller site to provide an additional caravan pitch with day room

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17/1/23

The DAS by Southern Planning Practice (July 2022) states that the application is for an additional caravan pitch with day room and stables however stables are not part of the description on this planning application and there are no stables shown on the proposed block plan for this application. If additional horses will be using this land or the adjacent field because of this proposed development, additional arrangements must be made for the disposal of horse manure and other waste products. If runoff becomes enriched with nutrients from horse manure it could change the nutrient balance of the site. This may also affect the surrounding sites depending on how it is managed. An earlier application, F/20/87928 was withdrawn but included the provision of stables. The ecology response for that application is still relevant to this one.

The DAS states that there is an existing septic tank and a toilet in the existing agricultural building. Surface water drainage plans for the day room, static mobile home, (and stables if they are part of this application) are required. The DAS states that *There would be no material increase in activity on the site as the applicant's son already lives with him on the existing plot and There would be no net increase in people living across the two pitches*. Realistically, having his own plot would enable the applicant's son to accommodate his own family or friends should he choose to do so at some point in the future, so the drainage systems must be able to accommodate the needs of a family group rather than just one person. Traffic generation might be expected to increase in the future as well.

Is any sort of formal paving planned for the parking area or under the static caravan? How will surface water runoff from this paving be managed?

There is a biodiversity sensitive area marked in pink on the cemetery grounds to the west of this site. This relates to application F/20/87685 to extend the cemetery. A population of slow worms were found on that site and may be present on this site if there is suitable habitat near the boundary. Please could you send site photos showing the current vegetation around the dis-used agricultural building? The aerial photos on Google maps show either bare earth or hardstanding on most of this site, but it is not clear what is on the western side of the site between the agricultural building and this biodiversity sensitive area. Slow worms are protected reptiles. The presence of protected species is a material consideration and must be determined before the application can be decided.

Biodiversity enhancements will also be required. A bat box on the gable end of and a sparrow terrace in the eaves of the day room building may be appropriate enhancements for this site.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. ([https://www.bats.org.uk › our-work › putting-up-your-box](https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/putting-up-your-box))

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

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