

Ecology response for F/23/95872 Land at South Side of Heath House Lane, Hedge End

Change of use of land to Agricultural with associated works including, engineering works to land to raise ground levels to allow erection of 2 x poly-tunnels and 2 x outbuildings.

Rachael Morris

12/9/23

This site is on the boundary between an amber and green great crested newt impact risk zone. There are records of slow worms, bats, hedgehogs and badgers nearby.

Pilands Copse SINC is located along the southern boundary of this site. This is designated 1A ancient and semi-natural woodlands. A 50 m buffer free from all development is required for ancient woodland boundaries. The site measures roughly 74 m from Heath House Lane to the SINC boundary, so if the application were to be approved, development must only be allowed within the 24 m between the road and the northern edge of this 50 m buffer. The proposed site layout plan shows only an 18 m buffer from protected trees which is not acceptable. Ancient woodland is much more than protected trees, it is an irreplaceable priority habitat.

The stream that runs along the southern boundary is a tributary of the River Hamble SPA, SAC. It also runs through the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI (Vantage Copse, Bottom Copse and Hoe Moor Copse) before it enters the River Hamble.

There is high potential for nutrient enrichment and chemical pollution from pesticides and herbicides from agricultural use to enter the protected waters of the River Hamble via surface water runoff.

Engineering works to the land before submission of this application may cause/may have already caused sediment to enter the watercourse.

Toilet facilities are not shown in the outbuildings on this plan, but since people would be working on site, they would be required. It is not clear how this would be provided.

Compensation for the habitat that has been lost and biodiversity enhancement would also be required.

I raise an objection due to the lack of a suitable ancient woodland buffer zone, potential for nutrient and sediment pollution to the watercourse, potential impact on the River Hamble SPA and SAC and lack of biodiversity information, lack of mitigation and lack of biodiversity enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist