

Ecology response for F/24/96940 2 BRIDGE COTTAGES, SHAMBLEHURST LANE NORTH, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2BY

Retrospective: Change of use of land from field / woodland to storage area for vehicles and plant (Use Class B8) with new enlarged entrance to highway and gates and fencing.

David Huckfield

25/3/24

This site is within amber and green impact risk zones for great crested newts. There is an area of lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat which extends into the site along the boundary with Shamblehurst Lane. There are records of bats and woodland grasshoppers nearby. The woodland has potential habitat for breeding birds, bats, badgers and possibly dormice. There is a record of a dormouse license 1200 m SE from this site with hedgerow connectivity.

Using the time slider on Google Earth it is clear that the change of use from field/woodland has been occurring since at least 2015, with expansion of the cleared area in 2016 and 2020.

An ecological impact assessment (EclA) is required to determine the extent of the existing clearance and the ecological value of the habitat remaining. Biodiversity net gain is required in line with national and local policy. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancements must be recommended in the PEA report.

Surface water drainage and surface water pollution mitigation information is also required.

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Ecologist