

Ecology response for F/24/97078 Land to rear of 1 Beech Road, Wildern, Hedge End, SO30 4FS/ 4FY

Construction of 2No. detached three-bedroom dwellings with ancillary parking and amenity space, accessed via Beech Road

Gary Osmond

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This site is located in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, stag beetles and hedgehogs nearby. There are records of nesting swifts in the wider area.

Aerial photos show that this site was almost completely vegetated until recent clearance activities, with large trees visible on Google Earth (latest imagery March 2022). The photos provided in the Design Access Statement show that the site has been cleared to bare earth with the cut remnants of large trees and a small amount of ruderal vegetation still visible towards the rear of the site. A biodiversity checklist has been submitted, however since the site has been cleared in advance of the application everything has been checked no. The trees and shrubs on site which were removed would have provided suitable habitat for nesting birds and possibly roosting bats.

The proposal would result in paving and buildings covering more than 50% of the site.

Section 7.20 of the Design Access Statement states that the rear gardens are proposed to be laid to lawn. 7.23 states that space is available for a short length of hedge to the front of the dwellings and a small area would be available on the eastern side for a small ornamental tree.

I object to this proposal due to loss of biodiversity and the inability to demonstrate any biodiversity net gain as required by local and national policies DM 1 and DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. The application is exempt from the requirement to provide 10% biodiversity net gain as it was submitted before 2 April 2024, however the existing local and national policies still apply. The pre-clearance value of the site can be taken as before the site clearance back to January 2020.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist