Ecology response amended for F/24/97713 Garnier Drive Access, Bishopstoke Park Continuing Care Retirement Community, Bishopstoke, SO50 6HE

Alterations to Garnier Drive/Church Road access to Bishopstoke Park Continuing Care Retirement Community.

Rebecca Altman

11/7/24

I have reviewed the site photos and do not see any habitat for protected or notable species that would be affected by this proposal. Other than a precautionary working method and biodiversity enhancements I have no further ecology concerns.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

9/7/24

The River Itchen SAC is located 350 m to the west of the site. Gully Copse SINC is approximately 300 m to the west. This site is in both red and amber impact risk zones for great crested newts.

> **Red** (highly suitable habitat) or **Amber** (suitable habitat, likely to be present) – *When development falls into the red or amber zones on the impact risk map, developers MUST prove to their local planning authorities that their development plans pose 'no risk' to great crested newts, this can be done in one of three ways:*
>
> 1. Demonstrate that newts don't occur on your site (usually by commissioning an ecological consultant to carry out a site assessment).
> 2. Apply to Natural England for a Standard Licence – this can only be done after planning permission. You will need to commission an ecologist to carry out a survey and design a great crested newt mitigation scheme.
> 3. Join the NatureSpace District Licence Scheme, which usually provides the quickest, most certain and least risky option where a licence is required.

To determine whether an ecology survey will be required, I need to review close up photos of all of the areas that would be impacted by this proposal.

There are nearby records of slow worms, bats, notable invertebrates, badgers, and hedgehogs. Nesting birds and bats may also be using the trees which overhang the drive. The Arboricultural Statement by LandArb Solutions (June 2024) also mentions the potential for protected species to be using the trees in sections 3.5-3.7. It recommends that any tree works should be avoided between March and August. If work during this period cannot be avoided, then it should be done or only after a nesting bird check and a check for potential bat roost features by a suitably qualified ecologist.

A precautionary working method will be required to protect these species during construction. This can be conditioned in a CEMP.

It has been agreed that the de minimus exemption for 10% biodiversity net gain would apply for this application. However, some biodiversity enhancements will still be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180.

Additional information is available at:

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

https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

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.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting

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

https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm

https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

https://ptes.org/my-garden/

https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php

Lisa Malter

Ecologist