

From: [ecologyconsultations](#)
To: [Taylor, James](#)
Subject: Ecology: 18/07717/FUL Land at Martins Road, Keevil, Wiltshire, BA14 6NA
Date: 19 September 2018 16:07:59
Attachments: [M3DADF1.DOC](#)

Hi James, thanks for the consultation request.

I note that there is no ecology information submitted as part of the application, and I do not consider that any is required. I have no substantive objection to the application if the following **precautionary measures** are put in place should permission be granted.

Ecology observations:

- There appears to be a net loss in biodiversity as a result of the proposal – the loss of the small group of fruit trees being the main reason for this. I do not consider that the new additional screening hedge proposed on the south-eastern boundary is sufficient to replace them. Ideally, replacement fruit trees should be part of the proposed landscaping; if this isn't possible, the screening hedge should be lengthened and planted up with native berry-bearing species (as detailed on a landscaping plan or site plan).
- I have concerns about the proximity of the new dwelling and garage in relation to the existing hedgerows, retained and neighbouring trees along the boundaries. Surely construction works will impact the health/integrity of the vegetation? **Some assurance of how impact will be avoided could be conditioned?**
- The site is likely to support breeding birds and possibly small numbers of reptiles; impact on these can be removed by appropriate vegetation management (see suggested informatives below).
- The existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation is likely to function as a dark corridor, part of the local green infrastructure network, which should be preserved. Therefore I suggest a condition regarding sensitive external lighting be included with any given permission.

External Lighting condition

All external lighting must be angled downwards and not illuminate any boundary features. This is to avoid adverse impacts on commuting and foraging birds, bats and other small mammals, but especially Annex II bats associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC.

Breeding Birds

Please be advised that works should not take place that will harm nesting birds from March to August inclusive. All British birds (while nesting, building nests and sitting on eggs), their nests and eggs (with certain limited exceptions) are protected by law under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. If birds are nesting on/in or within the vicinity of the proposed development, work should be undertaken outside the breeding season for birds to ensure their protection, i.e. works should only be undertaken between August and February. Further advice on the above can be sought from the Council Ecologists.

Reptiles

There is a low risk that reptiles could occur on the application site. All reptiles are legally protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and planning permission does not provide a defence against prosecution. In order to minimise the risk of reptiles occurring on the site, the developer is advised to clear the site and vegetation in a sympathetic manner during the autumn (September/October) or

spring months (April-May) and to maintain the vegetation at a short height to make it unsuitable for reptiles until the construction works commence. If these species are found during the works, the applicant is advised to stop work and follow the advice of a professional ecologist to inform necessary mitigation and/or compensation measures.

-----Original Message-----

From: Whittaker, Jade

Sent: 06 September 2018 10:48

To: ecologyconsultations

Subject: Consultee letter for PlanningApplication Application: 18/07717/FUL

Please find attached Consultee letter for PlanningApplication application 18/07717/FUL

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