

# HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

Hertfordshire LEADS, Growth and Infrastructure Unit, Environment and Infrastructure,  
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Ask for: Simon Richards  
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Date: 22/10/2021

Dear David

**Application:** Submission of details pursuant to condition 1 (on-site reptile survey) & 2 (badger walk-over survey) on planning permission 6/2020/2155/FULL

**Address:** Land adjacent to 45 Kentish Lane Brookmans Park Hatfield AL9 6NG

**Reference** 6/2021/2621/COND

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on the above, for which I have the following comments on the discharge of conditions 1 & 2.

## Condition 1

Prior to commencement of the development (including vegetation clearance), an on-site reptile survey must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist to check for reptile activity.

If reptiles will be impacted by the development, appropriate mitigation to safeguard them must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before commencement of the development (including vegetation clearance). The development must be carried out in accordance with the approved mitigation measures.

**REASON:** To ensure reptiles are protected from harm during the development in accordance with Policy R11 of the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

## Comments

Discharge of this condition is supported by a Full Common Reptile Survey (report date 08/09/2021) by Cherryfield Ecology. Seven surveys were carried out during suitable temperature and conditions across the months of July and August. A small population of grass snake was identified on site. The report advises appropriate mitigation measures including habitat manipulation and onsite translocation. Consequently, **I advise discharge of condition 1** and that the proposed measures are carried out in accordance with the details of the report.

## Condition 2

Prior to commencement of the development (including vegetation clearance), a badger walk-over survey of the site and 30m of adjacent land (access

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permitting) must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist to check for badger activity.

If badgers will be impacted by the development, appropriate mitigation to safeguard them must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before commencement of the development (including vegetation clearance). The development must be carried out in accordance with the approved mitigation measures.

REASON: To ensure badgers are protected from harm during the development in accordance with Policy R11 of the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### Comments

Discharge of this condition is supported by a Badger Survey (report date 06/08/2021) by Cherryfield Ecology. This details surveys carried out in July and August and involved 5 visits to assess the site and check camera traps and for field signs. badgers were recorded once passing through the site, no badger activity was recorded associated with sets which appear to be being used by rabbits. No indication is given that adjacent land was included in these surveys, however I consider the amount of survey effort was suitable to formulate conclusions regarding the use of the site by badgers. Suitable precautionary measures are recommended. Consequently, **I advise discharge of condition 2** and that the proposed measures are carried out in accordance with the details of the report.

I trust these comments are of assistance,  
Yours sincerely

Simon Richards  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology