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Contact: Chloe Weingarten

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Date: 24/01/2024

Dear Ashley,

Application: Outline permission for the erection of 14 dwellings, with all matters reserved except for access.

Address: Brookmans Park Golf Club Golf Club Road Brookmans Park Hertfordshire AL9 7AT.

Application No: [6/2023/1221/OUTLINE](#)

ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting this office on the above application.

Overall Recommendation:

- Application can be determined with no ecological objections (with any informatives/conditions listed below).

Summary of Advice:

- **Biodiversity Gain Plan condition.**

Documents:

1. Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
2. Habitat Map Extract

3. Full Common Reptile Survey
4. Final Ecological Appraisal 2022
5. Biodiversity Metric 4.0

Comments:

Overview: Hertfordshire Ecology were initially consulted in August 2023, whereby we advised that the application should not be determined due to missing ecological information. Subsequently, an Ecological Appraisal (EA) by Cherryfield has been submitted in support of the application. The report followed best practice, and I have no reason to dispute the findings.

All advice previously given in our letter dated 04/01/2023 relating to bats, lighting, reptiles, nesting birds, and badgers should be followed in full. **However, the following advice in terms of BNG will supersede our previous guidance.**

BNG: Previously, there was insufficient information on BNG to determine the application, whereby the completed metric was missing, and no ecological survey was submitted to justify the habitats displayed on the submitted habitat map. I am now satisfied that the habitats on site have been described fully, with reference to species presence and abundance, and these habitats correspond to the information outlined in the biodiversity metric.

The development will result in a loss of biodiversity units in modified grassland, urban tree, and other woodland, broadleaved. However, the trading rules have been met, and with a combination of the on-site habitat creation, and off-site woodland habitat enhancement, this will result in a total net change of 11.63%, which is above the minimum of 10%. The BNG proposed is feasible and proportionate to the size of the development, **therefore I am satisfied that the proposals will result in a biodiversity net gain. Consequently, the results should be implemented in a Biodiversity Gain Plan informed by the suitable metric, which should be a condition of approval.**

I trust these comments are of assistance,

Regards,

Chloe Weingarten
Assistant Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire LEADS

Hertfordshire LEADS provides Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design and Sustainability support to planning departments in Hertfordshire.