

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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Clare Howe

Planning Officer

Development Management

North Hertfordshire District Council,

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Ask for: Bernie Fleming

Tel: 01992 555220

Date: 26 July 2018

Dear Clare,

6/2018/1519/MAJ

Erection of 30 residential units with associated vehicular access, associated ancillary and enabling works

Land north of Chequersfield, Welwyn Garden City

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology. I apologise for the delay with this reply.

The accompanying Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (ACD Environmental, May 2018) suggests that the development site supports no notable ecological interest. However, the appraisal identified the presence or of a range of more widespread species/features some of which are protected in policy and law and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. In conclusion, the Appraisal suggested that should the recommendations be adopted, the development had no ecological constraints.

I have no reason to disagree with these conclusions but note that they are dependent on the implementation of a range of mitigation and enhancement measures (in Section 6) but which lack any evidence that they will be adopted.

To address this, and to enable the LPA to meet the expectations of the NPPF to secure biodiversity gain, I recommend the following **Condition** (or similar) is attached to any consent:

“No development shall take place (including demolition, ground works, site clearance etc) until a landscaping and mitigation plan that adopts the measures described in Sections 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.11 and 6.12 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (ACD Environmental, May 2018) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the:

- a) Purpose and biodiversity objectives for the proposed works;
- b) Detailed design(s) and/or working methods necessary to achieve these objectives (including, the provenance of native trees etc);
- c) Extent and location of proposed works shown on appropriate scale plans;
- d) Timetable for implementation;
- e) Persons responsible for implementing the works;

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f) Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance;

These works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved details and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter.

Reason: To avoid a net loss of biodiversity.”

Provided this condition (or similar) is adopted, I raise no objections.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Fleming

Ecology Advisor

Hertfordshire Ecology

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