

From: Kieron Huston <khuston@derbyshirewt.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6:25 PM
To: Redmond, Alan <Alan.Redmond@ambervalley.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [OFFICIAL] FW: Application Ref No: AVA/2022/0688

Hi Alan,

We responded to an application on this site in 2021 for 12 houses and requested an ecological assessment. A follow-up application was submitted in 2022 and again this was not accompanied by an ecological assessment. It is particularly important that outline applications address the need for net gain from the outset to ensure that subsequent development phases or reserved matters applications include sufficient biodiversity net gain and avoid the need for substantial redesign or impacts to viability at a later stage.

In addition as part of the consideration of an application the Council must be satisfied that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on protected species. The suitability of the site for protected species has not been assessed by a professional ecologist so although the risk may be lower due to the smaller footprint of the development, impacts cannot be entirely ruled out at this stage.

It is therefore normal practice for outline applications to provide an ecological assessment even if only a preliminary one.

The ecological appraisal will provide details of the type and extent of habitat affected and allow us to understand the type and scale of any mitigation or compensation that may be required. Net gain requirements can then be factored into any decision on the outline application.

In our experience many small applications struggle to provide a net gain on site and this would be exacerbated if the habitat impacted is moderately species rich grassland.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards

Kieron Huston

Biodiversity Planning and Policy Manager

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an ALERC Member
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To submit species sightings - speciesrecords@derbyshirewt.co.uk



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