

Rachel Tibbetts

From: Charlotte Watkins
Sent: 05 February 2020 13:00
To: Bob Neville
Cc: Planning
Subject: 19/02948/F

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Land adj to the South and adj to South Side Steeple Aston

Bob
The necessary ecological surveys have been carried out on site. There is little of concern as regards protected species actually on site however method statements for avoidance of harm are required for reptiles and badgers and mitigation for loss of habitat to birds, bats and reptiles is needed (and suggestions are made in the report). The principal issue that has not been dealt with on site is the necessity for demonstrating an overall net gain in habitats. We seek a net gain for biodiversity from all developments and for one of this size we would expect a metric to be applied to show how this will be achieved on site. Currently CDC is seeking gains of 10% . Looking at the current and proposed habitats I am not sure this is achieved on site. They should submit a metric therefore to show that they will be able to obtain a meaningful net gain in habitats.

Most of the other proposals are fine. Swift bricks should be integrated into appropriate aspects of any new builds as should bat boxes/bricks along with sparrow terraces and . Hedgehog 'highways' in the close board fencing would be welcome. I have some concerns over the buffer to the hedgerow to the South as it is inside the fence line and therefore I wonder if it is likely to be retained long term in these gardens once residents have control of them. Also the proposed traditional hay meadow within the grassed areas to the front of the site, whilst good for invertebrates and other wildlife may be under pressure long term to be cut as amenity given it is the only Public Open Space on site.

Please get back to me with any queries

Kind regards
Charlotte

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