

Consultee Comment for planning application 21/00922/OUT

Application Number	21/00922/OUT
Location	Land West Of Foxden Way Great Bourton OX17 1QY
Proposal	OUTLINE Planning Application with all matters reserved save for access for up to 9 First Homes
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation	Ecology (CDC)
Name	Charlotte Watkins (Ecology Officer)
Address	Ecology Cherwell District Council Bodicote House White Post Road Bodicote Banbury OX15 4AA
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	
Comments	<p>With regard to the above application, the site has been surveyed as a poor semi-improved pasture and no protected species were identified on site. The site is likely to support priority species such as hedgehog and the hedgerows will be of value to nesting birds and invertebrates. Whilst the hedgerows will be retained on site they will necessarily be more disturbed which will impact their ecological function. The hedgerow to the North of the site appears to be part of the garden boundaries therefore this is likely to impact its management for wildlife. A CEMP for biodiversity would need to be conditioned with any permission to ensure retained vegetation, priority species and nesting birds are protected during construction. The illustrative masterplan shows some landscaping at the Southern edge of the site but I would assume this is likely to be used largely for amenity (rather than for biodiversity). The applicant has not submitted a biodiversity impact assessment metric which is required to demonstrate that a measurable net gain for biodiversity can be achieved from the development. Whilst the site is relatively small a BIA would assist us in being confident that the development is acceptable in terms of achieving this. CDC currently seeks at least a 10% net gain in habitat units. Usually where a gain is unclear from illustrative plans we would require this up front however it appears that the applicant owns land to the south of the site which presumably could be used for habitat enhancement or creation in the event that net gain cannot be achieved on site? On this basis I would be content for the demonstration of a 10% net gain to be conditioned as part of an overall landscaping and enhancement scheme. If this is an unlikely use of the additional land then I think we would need this to be demonstrated up front even if in illustrative form to ensure it can be accommodated on site with the number of dwellings proposed. In addition we seek enhancements integrated into the buildings and design of the site for wildlife. The PEA makes some good suggestions for integrated features and hedgehog highways, I would recommend however that given local records and that this site is within a swift hotspot enhancements should include integrated swift bricks (which are also often used by other birds). Kind regards Charlotte</p>
Received Date	05/05/2022 13:13:00
Attachments	