## Lynne Baldwin

From: Katherine Daniels

**Sent:** 15 December 2022 08:14

To: DC Support Subject: FW: 22/03063/F

Please can this be placed onto DEF

Thank you

Katherine

From: Charlotte Watkins < Charlotte. Watkins@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

**Sent**: 14 December 2022 13:35

**To:** Katherine Daniels < Katherine. Daniels @ Cherwell-DC.gov.uk >

**Subject**: 22/03063/F

22/03063/F

Land East of Larsen Road, Upper Heyford

An updated Ecological Assessment has been provided and this is acceptable. There are a couple of ecological issues which should be addressed.

## **Great Crested Newts**

The Ecological update states: 'The process to transfer the District License to David Wilson Homes and the new planning application is currently being processed, as such Great Crested Newts can be fully mitigated under this scheme. 3.1.4 However, utilisation of the District Licence remains voluntary and should it be decided at a future date that applying for a standard Natural England site-specific mitigation licence is the preferred option then this could be pursued as an alternative.'

However, if they are pursuing the District licence route we require the certificate from Nature Space to be submitted with the impact map prior to determination so that we can include the appropriate conditions within the certificate within any permission. Without this we cannot authorise the licence and this cannot be done retrospectively. If they are pursuing the traditional licensing route then they should clearly show how they will mitigate for Great Crested Newts on site.

## Biodiversity net gain

A measurable net gain for biodiversity is required and this is best demonstrated using a metric. A metric has not been carried out here and should be to show how a net gain in habitats is being achieved on site. Where this cannot be achieved on site then an off-site scheme must be fully identified. Faunal enhancements on/in buildings are proposed and these are fine, though we would usually seek a greater number.

Kind regards Charlotte

Dr Charlotte Watkins Ecology Officer

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Communities Directorate Cherwell District Council www.cherwell.gov.uk My usual working hours are: Monday-Thursday mornings.