

Consultee Comment for planning application 24/00097/F

Application Number	24/00097/F
Location	Land South Side Of Widnell Lane Piddington
Proposal	RETROSPECTIVE - Material Change of Use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 12 gypsy/traveller families, each with two caravans, including improvement of access, laying of hardstanding and installation of package sewage treatment plant
Case Officer	Jeanette Davey
Organisation	Ecology (CDC)
Name	
Address	Cherwell District Council Bodicote House White Post Road Bodicote Banbury OX15 4AA
Type of Comment	Object
Type	
Comments	<p>Regarding the application above:</p> <p>I have concerns about the impact that this development will have on Great Crested Newts (GCN). The ecological update report provided by Cotswold Wildlife Surveys in 2023 demonstrates that pond 100m west of the site tested positive for presence of GCN. The report concludes that the works will not result in a 'loss of core habitat' for GCN and provides recommendations for precautionary working methods to avoid harming GCN during the works.</p> <p>However, the report only takes the existing habitats into account, rather than the habitats that were present before the works for this retrospective application began. The increase in the size of the development has resulted in an increase of hardstanding (which has already been laid) and has removed grassland which is suitable for GCN in their terrestrial phase. GCN are known to travel up to 500m, although they usually stay within 250m of their ponds. Because the pond is well within this buffer, the development results in a loss of suitable habitat for GCN. Therefore, a plan for how compensatory habitat will be provided for GCN on site will be required to show that no impacts will occur to this species. The plan also should include measures put in place to avoid harming GCN, or their breeding/resting sites, during the operational phase of the development (not just during the construction phase). Further surveys are likely to be required in order to assess the amount of mitigation and compensation required. Alternatively, the applicants can join a district level licencing (DLL) scheme and submit a Nature Space certificate to show that they've been accepted onto the scheme.</p> <p>A 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) is required to be demonstrated in the site plans (as measured by the metric). There does not appear to be any evidence submitted that shows that this net gain will be achieved. Due to the loss of grassland (now hardstanding) this development appears to result in a net-loss, rather than a net-gain.</p> <p>Pending the above information about GCN and BNG, I have an objection.</p> <p>Kind regards, Megan Belanger</p>
Received Date	22/01/2024 12:55:17
Attachments	