

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Maria Philpott – Principal Planning Officer
(Development Management)

From: Paul Evans – Ecology Officer
(Enforcement – Development Management)

Date: 11th December 2018

Ref: 18/01333/F Extension to Existing Technical Site, Bicester Heritage, Buckingham Road, Bicester - Ecology Comments

Further to my comments on 12th September 2018 I have reviewed the response provided by Ecological Solutions to these comments.

The additional information supplied by Ecological Solutions regarding the results of the HSI survey and assessment of the ponds on site provides sufficient justification to support their conclusions regarding Great Crested Newts. Based on their assessment I agree that conditioning a GCN Mitigation Strategy is no longer required. I welcome amendments that have been made to the site layout which includes the retention of one of the waterbodies and the creation of another larger pond. The newly created pond can provide a biodiversity enhancement by being designed to provide suitable conditions for wildlife e.g. shallow sloping sides, varying depths and native vegetation encouraged either naturally or via planting.

Responses from the public including Pamela Roberts have been reviewed it is noted that site clearance was undertaken prior to the determination of this application, premature site clearance of this nature presents a loss of ecological opportunities removing the potential for them to be included in the design and determination process of the application.

I would still recommend the conditions detailed in my previous comments are applied to any permission, apart from the GCN Mitigation Strategy which is now not required given the additional information supplied and my comments above.