

Ecological Addendum

Project: Land off Oakhurst Rise, Charlton Kings, GL52 6NR
Section 78 Appeal Ref: APP/B1605/W/19/2117293

Addendum – Assessment of Effects on Ecology from Amendments to the Site Layout Plan

Date: 24 May 2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Aspect Ecology has been commissioned by William Morrison (Cheltenham) Ltd to advise in respect of ecological matters pertaining to the proposed development of land at Oakhurst Rise, Cheltenham.
- 1.2 Aspect Ecology has carried out a range of survey and review work at the site and the findings of our work are set out within our `Ecological Appraisal` report (5487 Eco Ap vf1) dated October 2018 and within our report entitled `Information to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment` (5487 HRA vf) dated November 2018, both of which were submitted to inform a planning application (18/02171/OUT) for up to 69 new dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. The application was refused at Planning Committee on 21st February 2019, despite a recommendation to grant permission by the Planning Officer. An appeal (APP/B1605/W/19/2117293) has since been registered with the Planning Inspectorate.
- 1.3 Since this time, the site layout plan has been amended (Drawing No. PL005 Rev D) and Aspect Ecology has been asked to assess whether any further effects on ecology would result from the changes.

2. Review of Amended Site Layout Plan

- 2.1 The effect of the amendments to the site layout plan is the provision of increased open greenspace along a proportion of the eastern and southern site boundaries. This increase in green open space, affords enhanced benefits to wildlife over the application scheme, including:

expanding easily accessible foraging habitat for Badgers, as well as maintaining links to off-site foraging areas for this species, and providing additional areas with reduced illumination from the proposed and existing development which bats could utilise for foraging and which may facilitate bat commuting around the site. Increased opportunities for nesting birds will also be available as the areas will be landscaped with predominantly native species while opportunities will also be available for reptile, amphibian and invertebrate species should they colonise.

3. Summary and Conclusion

- 3.1 The amended site layout plan incorporates increased areas of green space along a proportion of the eastern and southern site boundaries which provides further benefits for wildlife over and above the scheme put forward under planning application 18/02171/OUT. As such the amendment is positive in biodiversity terms.