From: Matthew.Porter <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 August 2025 10:01:17 UTC+01:00
To: "Matthew.Porter" <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: dc/24/2006 Melton Drive Storrington recon

Matthew Porter
Principal Planning Officer

Telephone: 01403 215561
Email: Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

Horsham District Council will only accept service of documents by email if they are sent to legal@horsham.gov.uk. Any documents sent to individual email addresses will not be accepted under any circumstances.
Communications received after 5pm will be regarded as being served on the next working day.
Please contact us in advance if your email, including any attachments, is going to exceed 30MB.

From: Sue Hooton - Principal Ecological Consultant <Sue.Hooton@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 August 2025 09:30
To: Matthew.Porter <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: Place Services Ecology <PlaceServicesEcology@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: dc/24/2006 Melton Drive Storrington recon
Importance: High

Hi Matthew

The Applicant's Ecological Impact Assessment 2486771 -D02 (00) DECEMBER 2024 details the following baseline surveys were completed in 2024, and the methods and constraints are displayed in this report in Appendix C; • Great crested newt (Triturus cristatus) (GCN) environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys of ponds within 250m of the site (June 2024); • Badger (Meles meles) survey (May 2024); • Bat dusk emergence surveys of the barns (June to August 2024), night-time bat walkover (NBW) survey (July 2024) and automated bat detector surveys (May to September 2024); and • Dormouse (Mascardinus avellanarius) presence/absence surveys (June to November 2024). 2.2.2 In addition, surveys completed by RSK Biocensus between 2021 and 2023 are referenced and a summary of findings may be presented to inform the assessment.

Although the wintering bird surveys report (RSK biocensus, 2022) could be considered out of date in line with the CIEEM advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys, the

data is still valid as the character of the site is unsuitable for wetland birds, particularly Bewick's swan. There would also need to be several years of data to assess if any numbers recorded met the 1% population threshold for Functionally Linked Land.

The project level HRA highlights that the ecological conditions have not changed and there is no likelihood of these species being present. It would therefore be unreasonable to request further wintering bird surveys in relation to wetland birds linked to Arun Valley SPA and Ramsar site in line with Government circular 06/2005 paragraph 99. "…*developers should not be required to undertake surveys for protected species unless there is a reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development".* To do so could risk challenge and we do not consider it necessary to update the wintering bird surveys report for this application to support a lawful decision.

Best wishes
Sue

Sue Hooton CEnv MCIEEM BSc (Hons)
Principal Ecological Consultant at Place Services

(**she/her/Mrs**)
email: sue.hooton@essex.gov.uk / PlaceServicesecology@essex.gov.uk
web: www.placeservices.co.uk
linkedin: uk.linkedin.com/in/**sue-hooton**-04811178

