

ECO SYSTEM STATEMENT

TO SUPPORT A PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A NEW PADEL COURT WITH ASSOCIATED LEGACY PLANTING AND NEW REPLACEMENT PLANTING BEDS AT SPATHAM FARM COTTAGE, SPATHAM LANE, WESTMESTON. BN6 8XH

Eco-system statement to comply with policy SD2

PREAMBLE

Spatham Farm Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building on the East side of Spatham Lane, Westmeston.

Sustainably manage land and water environs

The introduction of a legacy planting scheme will hugely benefit the land on the application site.

The current sustainably managed water environs will not change.

Protect and provide more and better joined up habitats

The application does not seek to enclose any part of the application site.

New tree and shrub plantings with fruit tree orchard and wildflower meadows, will provide more habitats.

Conserve water resources and improve water quality

No change is planned to the existing pond on site.

The application does not seek to extend the present water service on the site.

Water is only used for drinking and toilet facilities.

Manage and mitigate the risk of flooding

The site is NOT in a Flood Risk Area.

All existing paths and parking areas have permeable surfaces.

The new padel court will have a water drainage system. This will aid in both the surface maintenance of the court, and to ensure that the legacy planting scheme benefits from the water run-off.

Improve the National Parks resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change

The legacy planting scheme will aid in both these areas.

Increase the ability to store carbon through new planting or other means

The application includes an extensive legacy planting plan. This will increase the ability on site to store carbon.

Conserve and enhance soils

The soil on site will be enhanced by the introduction of large quantities of humus rich material to aid in the planting of various tree, shrub and flower varieties.

Support the sustainable use of food, forestry and raw materials

The site has an established small vegetable growing area.

Once the new padel court is introduced, it is proposed to construct six new replacement beds to add to the vegetable production on site.

It is proposed to introduce a new fruit tree orchard to the south side of the Padel court.

There is also a large area for the inclusion of a wildflower meadow.

It may also be possible to underplant some of the larger specimens - included in the legacy planting scheme - with wildflowers beneath.

Reduce levels of pollution

The levels of pollution will not be affected by the application.

Improve opportunities for peoples health and well being

The facilities provided by the new padel court would clearly have a benefit to the user's wellbeing: not only in terms of the physical benefits - but in the benefits to their mental health also.

Provide opportunities for access to the natural and cultural resources which contribute to the special qualities of the National Park

Access to the myriad of footpaths and bridleways will not be compromised in any way by the proposals of this application.