



04 January 2024

Alison Pope
Tendring District Council

By email only

Thank you for requesting advice on this application from Place Services' ecological advice service. This service provides advice to planning officers to inform Tendring District Council planning decisions with regard to potential ecological impacts from development. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer who will seek further advice from us where appropriate and necessary.

Application: 23/01813/FUL
Location: Bucklands Gutteridge Hall Lane Weeley Clacton On Sea Essex CO16 9AS
Proposal: Extension to existing Gypsy / Traveller site to meet accommodation needs. Comprising siting of five residential static caravans, storage of five touring caravans, extended hardstanding, and installation of a package treatment plant.

Dear Alison,

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above application.

No objection subject to securing:

- a) a proportionate financial contribution towards Essex Coast RAMS
- b) biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures

Summary

We have reviewed the submitted information, Magic Maps (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>), and aerial imagery, relating to the likely impacts of development on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

The site falls within the evidenced recreational Zone of Influence (ZOI) of Essex Coast RAMs. Given the residential element of this development is relevant to the Essex Coast RAMS, the LPA will need to prepare a project level HRA Appropriate Assessment to secure a per dwelling tariff by a legal agreement for delivery of visitor management measures at the designated sites. This will mitigate for predicted recreational impacts in combination with other plans and projects and avoid Adverse Effect on Integrity of the designated Habitats sites.

We note that no ecological information has been submitted to support this application. However, upon reviewing aerial imagery, the site contains intensively managed / grazed grassland.



We are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination of this application.

This provides certainty for the LPA of the likely impacts on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and, with appropriate mitigation measures secured, the development can be made acceptable.

We note the site lies within an Amber Risk Zone for the Great Crested Newt (GCN) District Level Licensing ([GCN Risk Zones \(Essex\) | Natural England Open Data Geoportal \(arcgis.com\)](#)). Furthermore, we note a Great Crested Newt Class Survey Licence Return (2017) present 90m from the site. Therefore, it is considered possible that GCN will be present, albeit unlikely due to the intensively managed / grazed grassland onsite. GCN should therefore be considered as part of this planning application, however, due to the type of development and area impacted, we recommend that potential impacts upon GCN are managed under a precautionary method statement for GCN for the construction stage, including storage of materials. This precautionary method statement should be secured by condition of consent.

We also support reasonable biodiversity enhancements, which are recommended to secure net gains for biodiversity, as outlined under Paragraph 180d of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023). The reasonable biodiversity enhancement measures should be outlined within a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy and should be secured by a condition of any consent. This could also include provision of bat boxes, bird boxes, or a wildlife friendly soft landscaping scheme.

In addition, it is likely bats could be foraging/commuting within and around the site as suitable habitat is present within and around the boundaries. Therefore, if any external lighting is to be proposed, it is advised that a sensitive lighting scheme is developed to minimise any impacts. This should summarise the following measures will be implemented:

- Light levels should be as low as possible as required to fulfil the lighting need.

- Warm White lights should be used at <2700k. This is necessary as lighting which emit an ultraviolet component or that have a blue spectral content have a high attraction effect on insects. This may lead in a reduction in prey availability for some light sensitive bat species.

- The provision of motion sensors or timers to avoid the amount of 'lit-time' of the proposed lighting.

- Lights should be designed to prevent horizontal spill e.g. cowls, hoods, reflector skirts or shields.

This will enable LPA to demonstrate its compliance with its statutory duties including its biodiversity duty under s40 NERC Act 2006.

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013.

We recommend that submission for approval and implementation of the details below should be a condition of any planning consent.



Recommended Conditions.

1. PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT: NON-LICNECED GREAT CRESTED NEWT METHOD STATEMENT
“A Great Crested Newts Method Statement shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This will contain precautionary mitigation measures and/or works to reduce potential impacts to Great Crested Newts during the construction phase.

The measures and/works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved details and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.”

Reason: To conserve protected and Priority species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).

2. PRIOR TO ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY
“A Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected and Priority species shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:

- a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;
- b) detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;
- c) locations, orientations, and heights of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans;
- d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures;
- e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).

The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and shall be retained in that manner thereafter.”

Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the NPPF 2023 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).

And if any external lighting is proposed;

3. PRIOR TO OCCUPATION: WILDLIFE SENSITIVE LIGHTING DESIGN SCHEME
“A lighting design scheme for biodiversity in accordance with GN:08/23 Bats and Artificial External Lighting (Institute of Lighting Professionals) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall identify those features on site that are particularly sensitive for bats and that are likely to cause disturbance along important routes used for foraging; and show how and where external lighting will be installed (through the provision of appropriate lighting plans, drawings and technical specifications) so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent bats using their territory.



All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the scheme and maintained thereafter in accordance with the scheme. Under no circumstances should any other external lighting be installed without prior consent from the local planning authority.”

Reason: To allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species)

Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Allsop MSc BSc (Hons)
A current Qualifying member of CIEEM
Assistant Ecological Consultant



Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Tendring District Council

Please note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.