Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	05/02/2024
Application number:	PL/2023/10902
Proposal:	Temporary Agricultural Workers Dwelling
Site address:	Saddlepack Farm, Stert, Devizes, SN10 3HZ
Case officer:	Jonathan James

Recommendations:

	No Comment
	Support
	No objection
x	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
	Objection - further information required
	Objection in principle
	HRA completed

Thank you for consulting Ecology, I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps and aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory sites and existing records of protected species.

Information reviewed to inform this response included:

- Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. December 2023. Cotswold Environmental;
- Proposed Sie Plan. December 2023. Symonds and Sampson and;
- Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan. Symonds and Sampson.

We note the proposal to erect a temporary workers dwelling at Saddlpack Farm adjacent to the stable building within the field parcel. We welcome the Mitigation and Enhancement Plan submitted in support of the application which includes proposals to reinstate the area of priority woodland together with hedgerow planting on site. In addition, the proposals to include bird and bat boxes on site are welcomed.

We welcome the proposals to reinstate the area of priority woodland that was cleared. However, we note that this area is not proposed to be fenced off from potential grazing and/or encroachment. We would advise that this area is also fenced off to ensure it is protected in perptuity. This could be secured through a condition.

Conditions:

1. The development will be carried out in strict accordance with the following documents:
    - Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. December 2023. Cotswold Environmental.

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of biodiversity.

2. No new external artificial lighting shall be installed at the site unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

   REASON: In the interests of conserving biodiversity.

3. No works on site shall be permitted until the Biodiversity Enhancement Map has been updated to show the location of fencing around the priority woodland restoration area.

   REASON: In the interests of conserving biodiversity.

Informatives:

Breeding Birds
The adults, young, eggs and nests of all species of birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding. Please be advised that works should not take place that will harm nesting birds from March to August inclusive. All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 while birds are nesting, building nests and sitting on eggs. The applicant is advised to check any structure or vegetation capable of supporting breeding birds and delay removing or altering such features until after young birds have fledged. Damage to extensive areas that could contain nests/breeding birds should be undertaken outside the breeding season. This season is usually taken to be the period between 1st March and 31st August but some species are known to breed outside these limits.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist Jenna Buss	Date **05/02/2024**