

Date: 05 April 2024
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Olivia Tresise,

Planning consultation: Outline planning application (with all matters except access reserved) for up to 49 dwellings and associated works and provision of a cemetery together with access and associated works.

Location: Land south of The Forty and North of Chelworth Road, Cricklade, Wiltshire

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Objection further information required

This application lies within 4.2km of North Meadows SAC and SSSI and as such it is necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects to the designated sites from recreation related impacts either *alone* or *in-combination* with other plans or projects.

The North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy 2023-2028 sets out a rationale based upon evidence of visitor access patterns which would allow residential development to come forward with appropriate mitigation.

Natural England advise that this application is of a scale that it raises concerns relating to adverse effects both alone and in-combination with other projects. In particular App: PL/2021/10404 for 49 dwellings.

These two applications are both undetermined and total 98 dwellings within 4.3km of the SAC.

The use of *only* a financial contribution whereby mitigation is delivered by the Council is insufficient to demonstrate that there would not be an adverse effect on the SAC habitats.

The number of dwellings proposed at each location is so close to the Strategy criteria of 50 and the proximity to the SAC such that the only avoidance mechanism likely to be effective would be an area of suitable alternative greenspace. Neither application makes provision for a suitable area of natural greenspace.

The Council has at present no proposals which might secure mitigation of an appropriate nature, scale and location which the applicant might contribute towards to secure effective mitigation measures. Therefore the applicant is advised that securing their own mitigation in the form of additional natural greenspace would be the most effective approach at this time.

Natural England would welcome discussion with the Council and applicants advisors to consider

Yours sincerely

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