

Daniela,

Thank you for forwarding the information. I have now read the ecology overview.

Although the applicant does not yet appear to have carried out a comprehensive data search/ desk study (biological records), the overview notes that the application area supports habitats and features capable of supporting protected and priority species including European protected species (bats and great crested newts), species protected by domestic legislation (again, bats and newts, but also badgers and breeding birds), and Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41 NERC Act 2006 species; including the aforementioned species but also species such as common toads and hedgehogs). Hedgerows on site are likely to be Habitats of Principal Importance (NERC Act 2006), and may also qualify as 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 2007; ponds may similarly qualify as Habitats of Principal Importance.

Whilst it may be possible to mitigate/ compensate for impacts on biodiversity, my understanding is that the requirement for EIA is dependent upon whether or not there is potential for significant effects (and not whether impacts could be mitigated)? In this case development of this area may have the potential to affect protected and priority species and habitats and might therefore result in significant environmental effects (in the absence of mitigation).

Yours,  
Sarah

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