

Andrew Hunter
Planning Officer
Development Management
North Herts Council
PO Box 10613
Nottingham NG6 6DW

Hertfordshire LEADS
Hertfordshire County Council
Farnham House
Six Hills Way
Stevenage
SG1 2ST

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Contact: Bernie Fleming
Tel: tbc
Email: ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Date: 18 March 2025

Dear Andrew,

25/00241/RM

Reserved matters application for approval of layout, scale and appearance of buildings and landscaping pursuant of outline permission 21/03374/OP granted 31.01.2022

Baldock Services, Great North Road, Radwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5TR

ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Overall Recommendation

- ☒ Application can be determined with no ecological objections

Supporting documents

I have made particular if not exclusive use of the following documents in providing this advice:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report, Wardell Armstrong, June 2021 (submitted as part of original outline application)
- Cover letter, Zerum Planning Limited, 23 January 2025
- Landscape Proposals (Rev. A), Smeeden Foreman, January 2025

Comments

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2025 which refers, and for consulting Herts LEADS (Ecology); I apologise for the delay with this response.

We were consulted on the original outline application in 2021 but were unable to reply.

That said, I note the original application was accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which concluded the absence of significant, adverse, ecological impacts.

I would have had no reason to disagree with those findings at the time and nothing has changed in the meantime. In saying this, I note the presence nearby of the Radwell (A507) Road Banks Local Wildlife Site (LWS) but harmful impacts on this can be confidently ruled out given the type, scale and location of the proposed development.

Turning to the reserved matters, the layout of the proposed development avoids the LWS and whilst the proposed landscaping is largely composed of ornamental varieties or species, I consider this acceptable in this setting.

Importantly, the original application predates any requirement in national or local planning policy for the delivery of a biodiversity net gain and so this matter can be put to one side.

Drawing this together, **I consider the application can be determined accordingly with no need for any modifications.**

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Fleming

Ecology Advisor

Hertfordshire LEADS

Hertfordshire LEADS provides Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design and Sustainability support to planning departments in Hertfordshire.