

Officer Liz Anderson – Ecologist
Date 05/12/24

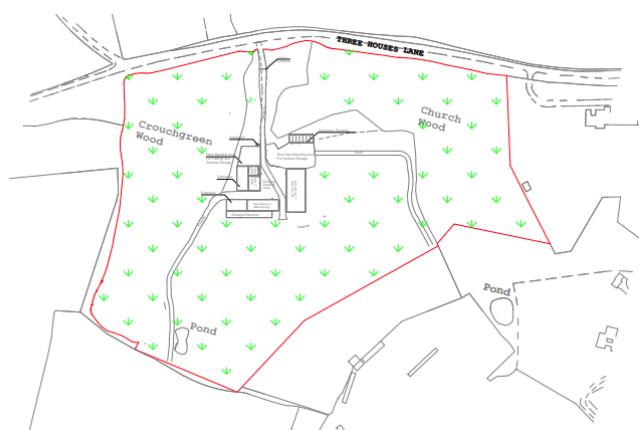
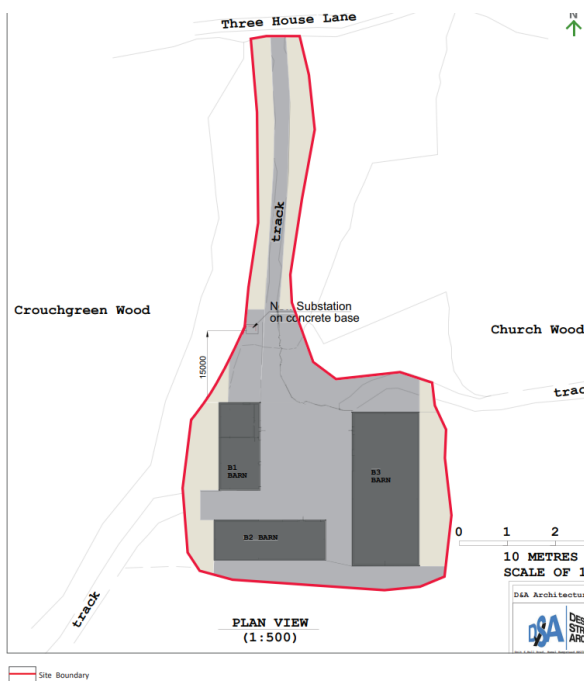
Ref: 24/02343/FP
Att: Tom Rea

Church Wood, Three Houses Lane, Codicote, Hertfordshire,

Change of use of existing site from agricultural to use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution). Extensions and alterations to existing barns; erection of detached temporary structure of three years and supporting substation and concrete base. Installation of hardstanding for outside storage and parking and installation of electric front entrance gates. (Development has commenced).

Consultee comments;

Thank you for consulting me, I have made a site visit and have a number of concerns with the application. The red line boundary on the application differs to that in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and I am concerned that ecological impacts have not been adequately assessed given the Church Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is included within the red line.



Further, the site plan identifies a pond the to the south but does not show the drainage basin adjacent to Three Houses Ln. Works to this basin are quite extensive including the introduction of a new headwall. Extensive fencing has been erected through the woodland and this is not indicated on the application

and yet the new gates are? The addition of laurel hedge planting along this northern fenced boundary is completely inappropriate in the ancient woodland local wildlife site.



The PEA states in 5.1 *'There are no baseline habitats of ecological importance. The proposals are limited to the conversion of extant sheds and the erection of a small substation on existing hardstanding only. Therefore the proposed development applied for will not result in the loss any habitats of ecological value'*. This is clearly not the case and as such I object until a full ecological appraisal of the actual works undertaken within the full red line boundary has been provided together with details of mitigation measures that will be required to compensate for damaging practices to the LWS on the basis the application is contrary to policies SP12 and NE4 in the North Herts Local Plan.