



Erica Buchanan  
Town Hall  
Evreux Way  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV21 2RR

13<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Your ref: R18/0186

Dear Erica,

**RE: Demolition of existing buildings and outline planning application for residential development of up to 137 dwellings (Use Class C3) including means of access from the Rugby Road, new open space and associated infrastructure.**

Rugby Borough is a Hedgehog Improvement Area, an initiative set up by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and funded by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, to help conserve a nationally declining species. Comments here relate specifically to the protection and enhancement of hedgehogs and their habitat on and around the proposed development area. The Hedgehog Team at the Trust hopes that the following information regarding hedgehogs can be passed to the developer.

### Hedgehogs

In view of our records for hedgehogs just over 500m of the development site and clustered in both Binley Woods and Brandon, it is considered likely that hedgehogs will occur within the development site. Hedgehogs are listed on schedule 41 of the NERC Act 2006, making them a material consideration for the LPA. To demonstrate due regard to the conservation of the local hedgehog population, the Hedgehog Team asks that the following changes are made to the development scheme.

Fencing can exclude hedgehogs from gardens, a primary hedgehog habitat used for foraging, shelter and finding mates. All boundaries and barriers within and surrounding the development, including fencing, railing and gates, should be made permeable e.g. through the use of fence panels with 13 x 13 cm base holes (hedgehog holes), leaving a sufficient gap beneath gates, leaving brick spaces at the base of brick walls. A variety of fence suppliers stock specific hedgehog-friendly fencing options, which can be easily implemented at little or no additional cost, and the Hedgehog Team can assist in mapping the location of the holes.

Chair  
Crishni Waring  
Chief Executive  
Ed Green

**Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**  
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Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

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Sympathetic planting along boundaries and features that have the potential to fragment the landscape should to be used to create wildlife corridors and areas of hard standing minimised. Hedgerows promote connectivity and provide a rich and diverse food source and shelter for a range of wildlife. Whilst it is recognised that hedgerows are to be maintained and created, it is suggested that native species are planted in preference to non-native ornamental species. Other features such as ponds in gardens and log piles that help to encourage hedgehogs and other wildlife should also be included where possible.

The CEMP should include measures to protect individual hedgehogs; caution is needed when clearing the ground prior to development, particularly piles of deadwood or leaves and areas of long grass or dense vegetation.

These comments align with the Ecological Appraisal, which identified the site as containing suitable hedgehog habitat and recommended the use of hedgehog holes.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding this response.

Yours Sincerely,

*Deborah Wright*

Dr Deborah Wright

Senior Hedgehog Officer

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