

Construction of fitness centre at Ferring Country Centre

Planning application number FG/43/22/PL

Response to Policy ENV DM5 – Biodiversity Net Gain

Whilst the wider use of the whole site, which includes equine use and the keeping of poultry and specimen birds, does impact on the biodiversity net gain methods that can be initiated as part of this application, the Country Centre is able to accommodate some positive measures to improve the biodiversity of the area.

Trees

No trees are to be removed to accommodate this application but the applicant is pleased to note that 40 new trees were planted on the site in the Autumn of 2021 as part of the ongoing programme of planting.

Wildflower Meadow

An area will be set aside for wildflower meadow to be sown in the Spring

Hedgerows

Hedgerows will continue to be maintained on the site with gaps being filled using appropriate native species as appropriate

Bats

There is no evidence of roosting bats at the Centre and the buildings are not suitable for the installation of bat bricks and/or tiles.

As an alternative some bat boxes will be installed in appropriate locations.

Birds

Due to the ongoing risk of bird flu it is not sensible to encourage wild birds to the area of this site close to the poultry and specimen species.

Management of Grassland Areas

There are large areas of managed grassland at the Country Centre.

In order to benefit reptiles the following measures will be taken/are already in place:

- Machinery will be used slowly to allow all creatures time for escape
- Cutting will be managed to commence in the centre of each area to allow creatures time for escape
- Fields will continue to be cut using a topper, a high cut.

Note: It is not possible to leave cut vegetation on the ground as this can cause issues with the equines at the site. With high sugar content, too much grass can cause a number of issues for the horses, not limited to, but including colic and laminitis.

Hedgehogs

2 hedgehog nesting boxes will be installed at the site

Fencing/Animal Routes

Whilst no new fencing is being installed as part of the current project we note that, with the exception of the fencing around the child's play area and garden centre, the fences on the site are either post and rail or stock fencing allowing free transition for small mammals across the Centre.

8th June 2022

