

Biodiversity Statement

Wadars, Hangleton Lane, Ferring. BN12 6PP

BACKGROUND

Wadars, is a leading rescue and rehoming charity and has been caring for and protecting sick, neglected, and injured companion animals and wildlife since 1969. As such they will operate in such a way as to encourage retention of wildlife on and adjacent to the site.

Ultimately, we plan to provide suitable accommodation for all of our rescue and rehoming work. Using the natural environment, we can create calm, tranquil, appropriate settings for each species. Sympathetic planting and the natural layout of the land will enable us to create sight, sound and scent barriers, whilst attracting native wildlife back onto the Downs.

BATS

The senior animal welfare officer for Wadars, has discussed the potential presence of bats on the site with neighbouring owners. Bats have not been seen on or around the site for a number of years.

Wadars has a good working relationship with the Bat Conservation Society and would actively encourage the roosting of bats on the site by providing bat boxes in suitable locations.

BARN OWLS

The senior animal welfare officer for Wadars, has discussed the potential presence of barn owls on the site with neighbouring owners. Barn Owls have not been seen on or around the site. Wadars would actively encourage barn owls to this locality.

BREEDING BIRDS

No hedgerows, scrub or other features likely to be used by nesting birds will be affected by the proposals.

Migratory birds such as swallows and swifts have been seen in the area and Wadars does encourage these birds to the site through the provision of nest boxes.

BADGERS

Wadars are not aware of any sets in fields which are adjacent to the site. However, Wadars have a good working relationship with Badger Trust west Sussex who would be contacted as necessary.

DORMICE

The application site itself is unlikely to be a suitable environment for dormice due to the presence of grazing horses. However it is likely that Highdown Hill and other adjacent areas will provide suitable habitat, which will not be affected by the proposals.

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

There does not appear to be suitable habitat for great crested newts on the site

REPILES

There are Adders on Highdown Hill but there has been no sight of any on the application site itself.