

## About the application

Application number: 2023/92966	
What is the application for?:	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 87 dwellings including formation
Address of the site or building:	Land to the rear of, 271, Cliffe Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4SB
Postcode:	

## User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>I wish to comment on the subject of the hedgerows on the north and eastern boundaries of the site -H2 and H3 on the Smeeden Foreman Ecological Assessment document, April 2023 (although confusingly in some of the site plans they are referred to as H1 and H2). To clarify, the hedge on the north of the site adjacent to Ferrand Lane and the one to the east between the site and the adjacent field.</p> <p>The Smeeden Foreman Ecological Assessment document, April 2023 is very thorough .</p> <p>In Mitigation and Enhancement proposals it states there should be: "Retention of principle hedgerows (H2 and H3) and others (where possible)"</p> <p>This proposal is reiterated in more general terms in the Carter Jonas Planning statement:</p> <p>"Retention of hedgerows and trees, or replacement native planting, and gapping up of existing retain hedgerows, where possible;"</p> <p>It is therefore concerning to see on the application site plan: (1694-101_SITE F_500_A1,) the annotation for these hedges to be: "the existing HEDGE LINE to be retained."</p> <p>This is not good enough. Mature hedges such as these provide habitats for wildlife. Our native birds are in decline. Every habitat taken from them makes their survival more threatened. It is no answer to say replacement hedges will be planted. There is little shelter for birds within the branches of a small sapling and in the intervening years before the hedge grows to a reasonable height, our local birds are without their previous habitat.</p> <p>Admittedly the hedges at present are in need of trimming back as they have become unkempt but I would suggest that they are trimmed back only to a minimum of three metres in height and then infilled as necessary.</p> <p>More general aspects of habitat management I would like to mention is that of the</p>	

More general aspects of habitat management I would like to mention is that of the timing of any tree/hedge clearance.

In Implications and Recommendations, the Smeeden Foreman report states:

5.3.37 All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) during breeding. It is therefore recommended that any vegetation clearance takes

place outside the core bird nesting period (March – August, inclusive)

It also continues:

" 5.3.41 .... and preferably only to be carried out during January and February when the berry crop is mostly finished to benefit species during winter."

I hope that when any development takes place this will be noted and any felling of trees and hedges will be done with sensitivity.