

18/04057/OUT AG



25 February 2019

Dear Mr Gunn,

Re: 18/04057/OUT – Land at Mount Hindrance

Further to our comment dated the 12 February 2019, we object to this proposal on the following grounds:

- 1) The site overlaps the Local Wildlife Site, Mount Hindrance Farm Hedges. Although the plans show the retention and enhancement of these hedges, they do not adequately show how this will protect the priority species that the site is designated for namely;
- 2) Hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Based on the Ecological report, dormice were found on site and, although the plans show that many of the on-site hedges will be retained and, in places enhanced, we do not consider that the cumulative effects of this proposal and the proposed development on Land East of Crimchard (19/00074) have been adequately assessed, nor that the issues raised by the former District Ecologist have been adequately addressed

<https://myaccount.southsomerset.gov.uk/civica/Resource/Civica/Handler.ashx/Doc/pagestream?cd=inline&pdf=true&docno=6903062>).

We are particularly concerned about the impact of domestic cats. A report by the Mammal Society* on domestic cat predation concluded that “cats are major predators of wildlife in Britain” and we are concerned that an increase in the number of domestic cats will result in a corresponding decrease in the dormouse population of the area.

The latest Environmental Statement does not contain sufficient detail on how the mitigation measures will ensure the welfare and conservation status of the protected species, nor does it contain any detail of what monitoring will take place to ensure that protected species do not suffer as a result of this development.

- 3) We share the concerns raised by the Somerset Badger Group that the surveys have missed at least one main Badger (*Meles meles*) sett. These issues were raised in their response to this planning application (<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/my-requests/document-viewer?DocNo=8770988>).

Yours sincerely,

Anne Halpin
Landscape Ecologist, Somerset Wildlife Trust

* M Woods, R McDonald & S Harris (2016) Domestic Cat Predation on Wildlife, The Mammal Society <http://www.mammal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Domestic-Cat-Predation-on-Wildlife.pdf>

Find your Wild Life

Somerset Wildlife Trust
34 Wellington Road,
Taunton,
Somerset TA1 8AW
Printed on environmentally friendly paper

Tel: 01823 652400
Fax: 01823 652411
Email: enquiries@somersetwildlife.org
Website: www.somersetwildlife.org
Patron: Simon King

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England no. 818162
Registered charity no. 238372
VAT no. 691 699 571