Stanmore Village, Bridgnorth
Ecology Position Paper
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1. Introduction

1.1 This Ecology Position Paper has been prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of the Stanmore Consortium in response to the *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal* prepared by The Environment Partnership (TEP, March 2020) in support of the alternative allocation of a new Garden Village at Tasley, Bridgnorth (hereafter is referred to as 'the site' for the purposes of this paper).

1.2 The Stanmore Consortium, comprising the Apley Estate, Stanmore Properties and other local landowners are developing plans for Shropshire County Council's (SCCs) preferred location for a new Village at 'Stanmore, Bridgnorth'. The purpose of this note is to identify matters which we feel require further assessment and indeed may have a bearing on the delivery of the site.

2. Key Considerations

2.1 The site falls within an impact zone for Thatcher's Wood and Westwood Covert Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with the SSSI itself located over 1km south of the proposed site. Within this impact zone, any development of more than 100 homes requires consultation with Natural England. The report produced by TEP states *"There is potential for indirect impacts on Thatchers Wood and Westwood Covert SSSI as a result of pollution from the development entering Tiddle Brook, which provides a potential hydrological connection."* Stanmore is also in the consultation zone, although the SSSI is further away (3km to the south-west). By contrast, there is no direct hydrological or terrestrial connectivity between Stanmore and the SSSI, with both areas separated by roads, the River Severn, Severn Valley Railway line and agricultural land.

2.2 We also draw to attention as a matter to be aware of, a new habitat close to the site, not designated, but being established under planning application 12/04824/MAW |Extension to Bridgwalton Quarry and restoration to land for a mix of uses comprising agricultural use, woodland, species rich conservation grassland and associated landscaping works incorporating new woodland planting together with the retention of the existing processing plant, silt lagoons, haul route and the erection of associated cement storage silo.

2.3 The granted scheme is subject to a habitat management plan, produced in 2013, but including an aftercare period covering the period for 2022-2026, this includes management of footpaths, etc. As it is not designated it is not picked up by TEP. Impacts, however, still need to be taken into account.

2.4 Whilst acknowledging detailed species surveys have not been undertaken, the site presents an abundance of suitable habitats for European Protected Species, principally bats and great crested newt. Conversely Stanmore offers far fewer suitable habitats, and of those identified these are confined to the boundaries.