

Sammons Architectural Ltd have been retained by Mr P Finney of The Caravan, Cheadle Road, Alton. As you may already be aware a planning application has previously been submitted to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council under application number SMD/2019/0459 for the change of use of land to provide for 14 touring caravan pitches with separate camping / open space, facilities building and reception and associated works. The application was refused on 1st October 2019 and an appeal against this decision lodged on 20th December 2019 (ref: APP/B3438/W/19/324689). Whilst the planning appeal was refused it still remains Mr Finney's intention to address the outstanding issues with a view to resubmitting a further application in due course.

Part of the reason for refusing the previous scheme was on ecological grounds and in order to understand the ecological implications of the proposed development it is therefore necessary to undertake further work in this regard.

In order to get a full and detailed appreciation of any likely impacts it would be necessary to undertake a survey and examination of the pond identified on the attached map because it may be a potential habitat for Great Crested Newts which are a protected species.

This survey will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist and will not involve any disturbance to your pond or property. If access is granted to inspect the pond it will be undertaken at a mutually agreeable time and you will be given the opportunity of overseeing the inspection should you so wish. You will of course also be provided with a copy of the report once completed.

I should point out that whilst the inspection of the pond would be useful in obtaining a complete and detailed understanding of the local ecology you have no legal obligation to allow access to the pond on your land. If you choose not to grant access, then the pond will not be inspected and the council will determine any future planning application on the basis of the facts known to them.

I would therefore be grateful if you could confirm whether you grant consent or not to the inspection of your pond by completing the paragraph below:-

I _____ of _____

Hereby consent / do not consent to Sammons Architectural Ltd appointing a suitably qualified ecologist to undertake an inspection and eDNA sampling of pond number _____ which is within my land ownership for the purposes outlined above.

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Signed _____

Dated _____