



Caroline Payne
Emery Planning
2-4 South Park Court
Hobson Street
Macclesfield
SK11 8BS

9th October 2022

Dear Caroline,

APP/M9496/C/21/3279072 – ECOLOGICAL NOTE FOR THORNBRIDGE HALL, ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER, DERBYSHIRE

I have been asked to produce a statement regarding any implications that a recent piece of environmental legislation may have in relation to the ground a) appeal. The legislation in question is The Beavers (England) Order 2022, which became law on 1st October 2022.

The Beavers (England) Order 2022 fully protects Beaver *Castor fiber*, making the species a European Protected Species. The legislation makes it an offence to deliberately capture, injure, kill or disturb Beavers, or damage and destroy their breeding sites or resting places. Planning applications must consider Beaver and its habitats, with the same regard as Great Crested Newt and bats, but only where suitable habitat may be impacted upon or a population of the species is known from the site or zone of influence of the development.

The development at Thornbridge Hall, which is the subject of appeal a), has not taken place upon, nor affected, suitable Beaver habitat. The development has taken place over 870 metres from a main watercourse (the River Wye) and no riverbanks have been directly or indirectly affected. The lakes on the Thornbridge Hall estate are isolated.

Moreover, Beaver is not known to exist in the locality of Thornbridge Hall. Beavers mainly exist within enclosures in the UK, with wild populations known from Scotland and Devon, for example. The nearest known Beaver release (into an enclosure) to Thornbridge Hall is Willington Wetlands, over 45km to the south of the appeal site.

In summary, the development has not affected suitable Beaver habitat, either directly or indirectly, and the continued use of the development will not affect Beaver habitat, either directly or indirectly.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rachel Hacking

Principal Ecologist
Rachel Hacking Ecology Ltd