

17.1.14.

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COPY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: NEW PLAN FOR NORTH DASET

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED MY LAST RESPONSE WHICH ALSO REFERS TO MY ORIGINAL RESPONSE. MY POSITION ON THE PLANNED BUILDING ON LAND ADJACENT TO MANCHESTER HILL AND NEW ROAD IN BURDFORD ST MARY - FOR ALL THE REASONS STATED BEFORE I DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER SITE SHOULD BE BUILT UPON AND REFER AGAIN TO MY SUGGESTION OF BUILDING OUTSIDE OF THE BYPASS WHERE DRAINAGE COULD BE ACCESSED RIGHT INTO THE RIVER STAIR. ANY BUILDING ON AVAILABLE LAND INCREASES FLOOD RISK TO LOCAL DOMICILES.

BURDFORD ST MARY IS A VILLAGE - PLEASE DO NOT JUST ENCOMPASS IT WITH BURDFORD FARM.

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH MY PREVIOUS TWO LETTERS.

STEWIA GILLIES.

PS I HAVE ENCLOSED A LEAFLET WHICH JUST SHOWS THE IMPACT ON LOCAL WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE.

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made
delivered
20.12.12

To whom it may concern

Re: New Plan for North Dorset – Public consultation on key issues.

Please could you read this document in conjunction with the letter I wrote during the last stage of the consultation as I am unable to find a copy to attach. The letter outlines my concerns for the wildlife and the environment on the proposed allocation of land at Blandford St Mary without my need to type it all again. I also enclose a leaflet which I feel explains why the land adjacent to Dorchester Hill and New Road should not be allocated to housing due to the huge impact it will have on two protected species; badgers and bats.

Integrating Blandford St Mary with Blandford Forum in your consultation document was not helpful. Blandford St Mary is a village in its own right and the river Stour provides a natural divide between the two. I feel it also makes your document confusing and inaccurate. For example my GP surgery does not allow me to have my prescriptions made up there as I do not live in Blandford Forum!

There appears to be an acute lack of equality in the consultation document. Why is there a question asking if the amount of housing allocated to the Crown Meadows should be reduced or remain at the original level set when there is no similar question regarding development at Blandford St Mary? I would suggest this is due to the high profile campaign to prevent building on the Crown Meadows which has been evident. The fact that the residents of Dorchester Hill and Lower Bryanston do not have the same resources, time or financial backing should not mean they are discriminated against.

No I do not agree that the number of housing allocated to the Crown Meadows should be reduced it is a more suitable site for development than the land you are proposing in Blandford St Mary.

Developing the proposed land at Blandford St Mary would severely increase the risk of flooding to the properties in Lower Bryanston and along to the Stour Inn. Presently the agricultural land retains a lot of rain water. For historical evidence of how development on agricultural land on an incline could impact upon the properties further down acquaint yourselves with what happened during the Bryanston Hills development. Alternatively come and see the river of water that runs down Dorchester Hill (as it is today) for an example of how developing agricultural land redirects water flow.

There is no road infrastructure to support the proposed housing development in Blandford St Mary. All the traffic will have to flow through a pinch point and then through the Bryanston gates roundabout. As the hedgerow along Dorchester Hill will have to remain for wildlife reasons (see enclosed leaflet) it is difficult to see how access can be achieved. The Bryanston Gates roundabout is already insufficient for the volume of traffic that uses it and as a result is dangerous for both drivers and pedestrians. Land outside of the bypass would be more suited to develop because of its accessibility to the main road.

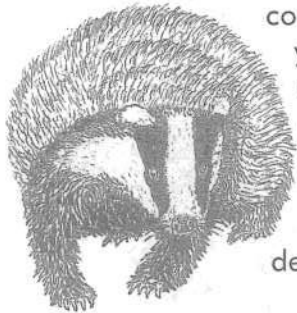
Why is Blandford St Mary (or even Blandford Forum) in a time of green policies considered to be appropriate for development to meet the needs of people who work in Bournemouth and Poole? The majority have to commute by car as the limited bus services can only be used by those who work particular hours. When my daughter was working in Poole she got the bus but on the mornings she had to be in early or the evenings she worked until 7.30pm it meant I had to drive her.

• FEEDING BADGERS

Badgers may make use of gardens to feed and occasionally this can be a nuisance. This activity usually occurs in spring or autumn. Many people feed badgers in their gardens and this can make watching them easier and provide much enjoyment. Extra food can be valuable during dry hot summers or very cold winters, and can help to prevent unwelcome raids on crops or digging in lawns. Badgers are fond of peanuts, dog food, sandwiches with a sweet filling and fruit. Ensure food is fresh to prevent salmonella. Water is also vital - use a heavy container.

• UNWANTED VISITORS?

If you do wish to discourage badgers from coming into your garden you can use a commercial mammal repellent (from garden or farm shops). It is illegal to use chemicals which are not specifically approved as badger deterrents.



If this does not work you may be able to hire an electric fence from the Dorset Badger Group. Old lemonade bottles half filled with water and placed on badger paths can also help to deter them as can human urine (especially male)! apparently. Often badgers' use of a garden, and any damage caused, is short-lived or seasonal.

Badgers can cause damage to fences, and as they are very strong, a robust chain link fence dug into the ground is needed to prevent this. If the fence is on a well-used badger path they can be very persistent and it may be easier to allow them access by leaving a hole or a badger gate in the fence.

Further Information:

- *Badgers* by Michael Clark (Whittet Books)
- *The Natural History of the Badger* by Ernest Neal & Chris Cheeseman (Poysner Natural History Series).
- *Managing landscapes for the Greater Horseshoe Bat* by English Nature (Tel. 01733 455000).
- *Wildlife Action Pack - Hedgerow Planting and Living Gardens - Trees, Hedges & Butterfly Borders*; both leaflets available with an SAE from Dorset Wildlife Trust (address below).

Advice:

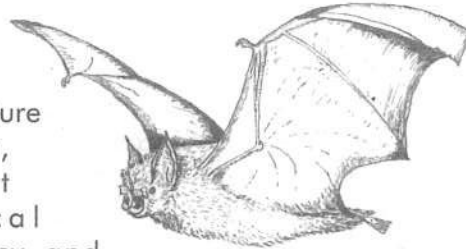
Dorset Badger Group Dorset Bat Group
BOTH c/o Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm
Forston, Dorchester. DT2 7AA

Or contact:

Elizabeth James of Dorset Badger Group
(01297) 678772
English Nature Dorset Team
(01929) 556688

Acknowledgements

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6/01

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BRYANSTON HILLS



WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP



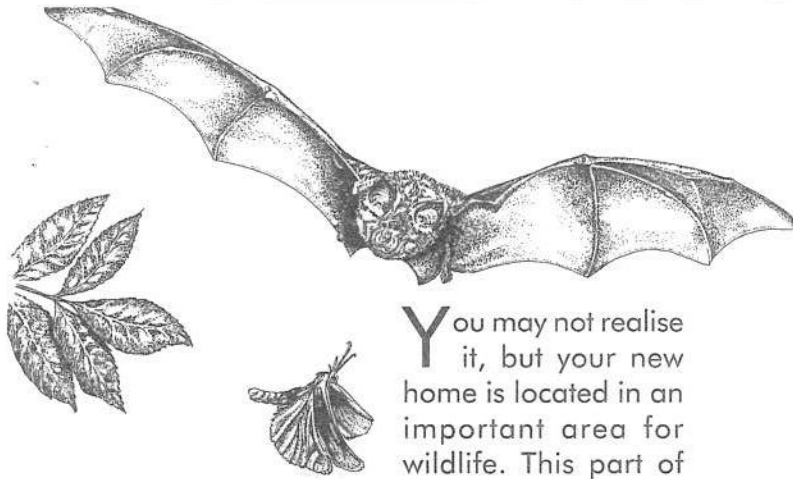
Dorset Wildlife Trust



DORSET
BADGER
GROUP



Louis Hamilton
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You may not realise it, but your new home is located in an important area for wildlife. This part of

Blandford St Mary is home to two species protected by law – badgers and greater horseshoe bats. Both are nocturnal creatures, so you may not see them, but how you manage your garden could affect their lives.

We hope that this leaflet will tell you more about your new neighbours and answer some of the questions and concerns you may have.

• **BATS AND HEDGES**

The Greater Horseshoe Bat is one of Britain's largest but rarest bats. They are protected under UK and European law. They roost in old buildings and caves, and use the same sites every year; there is an important colony in the Blandford area. They feed on insects like cockchafers, dung beetles and moths, and depend on continuous hedges for 'flight paths' along which to feed and travel. Even gaps of a few metres can put bats off and prevent them from reaching feeding grounds. Therefore it is vital for the bats that the native hedges which run through this development are retained and managed to help them.

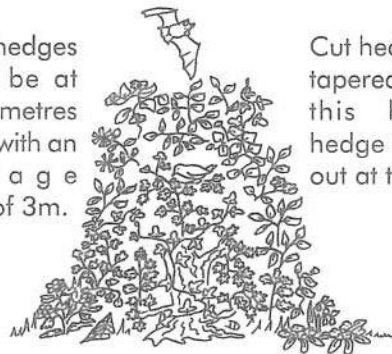
Native hedges not only provide garden boundaries and shelter for people, but are important wildlife corridors, offering homes and

food to a great diversity of species including many beneficial insects which will eat garden pests such as aphids or slugs.

Berries ripening at different times are an extremely important winter food source for many animals including birds. Hedges will only fruit on second year's growth so staggering the times you cut your hedge will enable more berries to form. There's no need to cut the hedge every year.

Cut hedges where possible after Christmas, giving birds a chance to eat the berries, but before the nesting season starts - as a general guide this is from March through to August. Bushy hedges provide routes for bats to feed along. Tall, thick hedges provide more protection and a greater variety of habitats.

Ideally hedges should be at least 3 metres across, with an average height of 3m.



Cut hedges into a tapered 'A' shape; this helps the hedge to thicken out at the base.

Leaving an area uncut at the base of the hedge provides cover for birds, invertebrates and butterflies. Climbers such as honeysuckle and native hedgerow wildflowers such as primroses, bluebell, betony and red campion make an attractive and wildlife-friendly planting scheme.

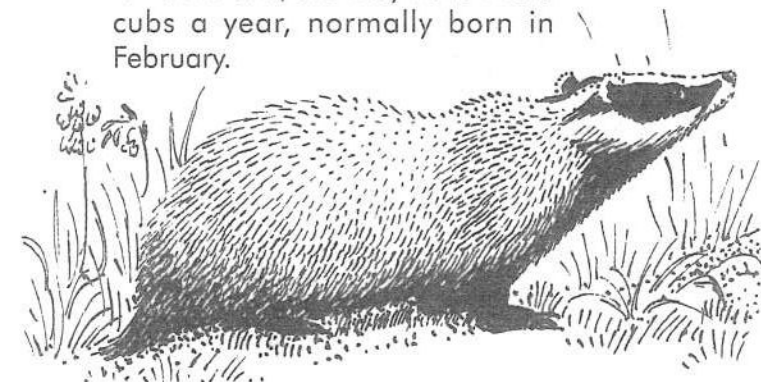
Hedgelaying is a traditional craft for managing hedges, if your hedge starts to look gappy, you may like to consider it.

There are legal prohibitions on the disturbance of nesting birds and restrictions on the removal of some hedgerows. There may be a covenant in the deeds to your house with restrictions on hedge removal.

• **BADGERS IN THE GARDEN**

Badgers are shy nocturnal animals and value the privacy of their homes— called setts, which are often very ancient. They are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) from killing, injury and damage or obstruction of their setts.

Badgers' diet is mainly earthworms, slugs and leatherjackets (cranefly larvae), but they also eat grain, fruit, berries and sometimes small mammals. They live in social groups of 5 to 12 animals. The male is called a boar and the female a sow, she may have 1 to 3 cubs a year, normally born in February.



• **NEW DEVELOPMENT**

When building takes place near a sett as in the case here, the developer must take account of the badgers' welfare. The housing layout here allows the badgers to travel from their sett to nearby foraging areas through a special 'wildlife corridor'. It is illegal to interfere with the sett, and the corridor must be kept clear and free of rubbish.