

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/3668/T	Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum	06/08/2021 12:03:37	OBJ	<p>The Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan designated the garden of 15 Downshire Hill as part of a Biodiversity Corridor D. Policy NE3 states that proposals should not diminish the ability of biodiversity corridors to provide habitat and the free movement of wildlife. Proposals also should establish the quality of the existing biodiversity through relevant ecological appraisal and specifies surveys and should show how biodiversity and habitats will be enhanced.</p> <p>This application proposes removing a significant amount of vegetation on the boundary of number 15 and 14B Downshire Hill with no mitigation measures.</p> <p>Page 3 of the Engineering Appraisal Report identifies roots from the birch (T1) and rosebush under the foundations but the arboricultural report suggests removing the cherry (T2) and a mixed species border (SG1) as well, stating that these species wouldn't respond well to pruning. We are not aware that this is the case.</p> <p>Given the importance of the biodiversity corridor and the lack of mitigation measures, we do not believe the application provides enough justification for the removal of the T2 and SG1 and should be refused.</p> <p>Though this is not a development proposal, we note that the newly revised NPPF (paragraph 180d) expects development to take advantage of opportunities to improve biodiversity. The new paragraph 131 states that existing trees are retained whenever possible.</p>

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