**From:** Charlotte Watkins
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 11:51
**To:** Bob Neville
**Cc:** DC Support
**Subject:** 18/00358/DISC

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Muddle Barn Farm, Colony Road, Sibford Gower

Bob

With regard to the discharge of condition 16, the submitted report by BSG Ecology (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) is sufficient to discharge this condition in my opinion. The proposed landscaping on site and addition of bat tubes, starling boxes and further bat boxes as well as a pond will have significant benefits for wildlife on site. However note constraint to pond location below.

Condition 15 refers to the need to carry out an updated badger check on site before development commences to establish if there are any changes in the abundance or impacts on badgers for which mitigation is needed. The report identifies active setts on land within the ownership of the applicant towards the Southern boundary with College Barn Farm and to the Western boundary also. These were not identified by the original badger report but were known to be present from locally given information. Given the distance from the proposed works (more than 150m) these are unlikely to represent a constraint on site and provided the best practice guidelines with regard to deep excavations are adhered to there should not be any particular problems. Particular care should be taken when preparing the proposed pond however as this is in relatively close proximity to sett ‘C’ and excavations must be kept at least 30m from the sett entrance. Any new fencing should also take badgers foraging needs into account and ensure setts are not obstructed in any way. This updated badger check itself is satisfactory however, further mitigation is not required and I consider the condition with regard to this can be discharged.

Kind regards

Charlotte

**Dr Charlotte Watkins**

**Ecology Officer**

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