

From: Charlotte Watkins
Sent: 25 March 2020 11:59
To: Caroline Ford
Subject: RE: 20/00293/OUT Bicester Gateway Business Park

Caroline

I have read through all the relevant ecological information and in general I do not have any issues with this scheme from an ecological point of view. The suggested enhancements on site are welcome and likely to be valuable in this location. Some of the areas of planting are relatively small and may be more difficult to manage long term (wildflower areas) but the green walls and planted podiums will all be valuable depending on the species planted. I would support the suggestion by Banbury Ornithological Society of Rowan planting on site. All species should be chosen with wildlife value as well as local conditions in mind. All species, management and enhancements should all be outlined within a full LEMP.

A full CEMP for biodiversity will also be needed to show how retained vegetation will be protected, outline any time restricted activity (e.g. avoidance of nesting bird season), any site clearance requiring ecological supervision, best practice with regard to wildlife (covering trenches etc.), toolbox talks where appropriate to site staff, a walkover protected species check prior to works beginning and any other site specific requirements.

A full lighting strategy which takes account of nocturnal wildlife will be needed.

An off-setting scheme is appropriate here, will be valuable locally in the wider landscape and is already agreed. The only thing I think it would be useful to have (which is missing I think) is a recalculation of the biodiversity net gain which will be achieved overall using an approved metric so that the level achievable and aimed for is clear to all.

Please get back to me with any queries

Charlotte

Dr Charlotte Watkins
Ecology Officer