

Rachel Tibbetts

From: Bernadette Owens
Sent: 09 October 2020 13:43
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: 20/02469/SCOP

Please log etc..

From: Charlotte Watkins <Charlotte.Watkins@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 October 2020 12:51
To: Bernadette Owens <Bernadette.Owens@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: 20/02469/SCOP

Bernadette

In terms of what should be included in the assessment the proposals within the scoping report are broadly appropriate however I would make the following comments..

- They propose to scope out air quality and ground conditions – this is not strictly within my remit but I feel there needs to be further justification for this?
- Ensure all water features are included as well as historic field ponds, are there ditches on site?
- It should be made clear that all grassland on site is to be assessed (the wording suggests only that within the LWS whereas there is valuable habitat outside of this, though I think this is just the way it is written).
- I cannot remember where they are at as regards updated surveys but if Otters and Water voles are to be scoped out this should be justified on the basis of recent surveys.
- The assessment should include a full Biodiversity Impact Assessment in the form of a metric to clearly demonstrate that an overall net gain (of at least 10%..) will be achieved and how. The 'Ecology Strategy' needs to be fairly well formed to inform this. The point makes it appear that these documents may be left to heads of terms in their entirety but whilst some details could be this would make demonstration of mitigation difficult.
- The CTA designation is missed out of the non-statutory designations. Whilst this designation is not a constraint in itself it shows the priorities for this area in terms of biodiversity enhancement and retention and may elevate the importance of some habitats on a local level accordingly within the assessment.
- CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment version 1.1 updated September 2019 should be followed.

Also note the thorough guidance in Natural England's response.

Please do get back to me with any queries

Kind regards

Charlotte

Dr Charlotte Watkins

Ecology Officer

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My usual working hours are: Monday and Wednesday mornings.

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