

From: Charlotte Watkins
Sent: 01 March 2022 10:25
To: Caroline Ford
Subject: RE: 21/01630/OUT - Home Farm etc, NW Bicester

Caroline

With regard to the above consultation on amended information, I have the following comments:

The submitted metric and biodiversity Impact Assessment is generally fine and shows that at a least a 10% net gain in habitats and hedgerows is likely to be achievable. However it is stated that this is not based on the latest layouts and so an updated BIA will be required as layouts are finalised. Any condition to this effect must specify that at least a 10% net gain for biodiversity (as measured by a recognised metric) needs to be achieved on site.

As regards the off site farmland bird contribution I do not agree that no contribution is necessary here. This aspect is clearly stated in the SPD and requires all developments within the masterplan area to contribute. This is to help ameliorate the cumulative impact on farmland birds from the whole area of the masterplan - not necessarily to directly mitigate on an individual basis for each patch.

The other measures are fine to be included in CEMP, LEMP etc.. though as per my previous comments it should be noted that we would be looking for a minimum of the equivalent of one nesting/roosting provision per dwelling (they don't mention numbers in their text).

I could not find any additional submitted information on Great Crested Newts. The Newt Officers comments outlined the options which are either to apply for a district licence prior to determination or show that GCN have been properly accounted for on site (currently the information within the PEA is lacking in terms of ruling out impacts on GCN). The Newt officers comments make this clear in the summary and so more information is required on this for us to fulfil our duties in this regard and to ensure no offence is committed.

Please do get back to me with any queries

Kind regards

Charlotte

Dr Charlotte Watkins
Ecology Officer