

Bernadette Owens

From: Charlotte Watkins
Sent: 17 November 2021 10:18
To: Bernadette Owens
Subject: RE: Begbroke Science Park applications

Importance: High

21/03195/F

Bernadette

With regard to the above application, appropriate surveys have been carried out on site however there remain outstanding ecological issues. The ecological report recommends that a Great crested newt licence is needed for work on site. However there is no outlined mitigation or methodology for working included within the documentation in order to demonstrate that a licence is likely to be obtained from Natural England.

If they wish to use the district level licence which would seem appropriate in this case, this needs to be applied for through Nature Space (our delivery body) prior to any decision being made as we require a full impact map and a certificate from Nature space to be submitted with the application. The certificate contains specific condition wording which must then be included within any permission in order for us to authorise the district licence.

The ecological appraisal has identified that there will be a 76% biodiversity loss as a result of the proposals. We must, under policy, ensure a net gain for biodiversity is achieved and CDC seeks a net gain of 10% as measured by a metric. An appropriate metric has been carried out (although it would be helpful if the actual metric could be sent on as otherwise it is difficult to check figures) however nothing has been identified as far as I can see as to how they will avoid a net loss or achieve a net gain.

The appendix of the report states the details will follow and are likely to include an area of arable land but this does not give confidence that this is achievable. We need to see a full scheme with identified land source and how this will be enhanced for biodiversity in perpetuity to ensure the application is acceptable as far as achieving the net gain required. If I have missed a plan or document on this please get back to me.

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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