

Andrew Thompson

From: Charlotte Watkins
Sent: 11 April 2023 13:24
To: Andrew Thompson
Subject: 23/00173/OUT

With regard to the above outline application 23/00173/OUT, the applicant has submitted an ecological appraisal which is sufficient in scope and depth at this stage.

Should permission be granted a full CEMP would be required to protect retained habitats and species on site during construction. A walkover/update survey should be conditioned to be carried out prior to any works commencing on site.

In general there are few protected species issues on site which cannot be overcome through mitigation. The exception is farmland birds. Skylark and Yellow wagtails (both red list species) were found to be nesting on site and under current proposals there is no specific mitigation for these red list species. Compensation for these species should be considered.

A biodiversity impact assessment has been submitted which shows a good level of gain in both hedgerows and habitat units could be achievable under the illustrative layout. This relies on the creation of areas of neutral grassland and scrub reaching a moderate condition within five years which is an ambitious target given the baseline habitat and its achievability will be dependent on careful management both of the habitat and of access to it. A full LEMP would need to be conditioned which shows how the various proposed habitats are to be managed, funded and give details of monitoring and review periods to ensure biodiversity net gain is achieved for the lifetime of the development. Any LEMP should include details of integrated bat and bird provisions as well as any proposed on trees, measures for hedgehogs, reptiles and invertebrates.

A full lighting strategy would need to be conditioned to ensure that dark corridors remain on site for nocturnal wildlife.

Kind regards
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