

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Pegasus Group  
Querns Business Centre  
Whitworth Rd  
Cirencester  
GL7 1RT

Philip Smith

**APP/C3105/W/22/3311992**

**Outline planning application for construction of up to 140,000m<sup>2</sup> of logistics employment floorspace (use class B8 with ancillary offices and facilities) and servicing and infrastructure including new site accesses to the A361, internal roads and footpaths, landscaping including earthworks to create development platforms and bunds, drainage features and other associated works including demolition of the existing farmhouse at OS Parcel 5616, southwest of Huscote Farm, east of the A361 Daventry Road and northeast of Junction 11 on the M40, east of Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 3JS**

**Breeding Bird Survey 2022 Addendum Report**

**Introduction**

This letter provides additional Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data provided by Falco Ecology gathered at the above site in April and May 2022 to supplement data gathered by Falco Ecology in June and July 2021 at the same site. Surveys were undertaken following the recognition that 2021 data was gathered towards the end of the recognised bird breeding season, and it was recommended that two further visits were undertaken in April and May 2022 by Falco Ecology to ensure the core breeding bird season was surveyed.

The objective of the 2022 BBS, therefore, was to establish if any early breeding bird species were present within the site, which may not have been present during those months during the 2021 BBS.

This addendum letter report should be read in conjunction with the Breeding Bird Survey Report (FE-019-200-023-004-R-01-V1) written by Adrian George of FALCO Ecology presented in Appendix 7.1 of the Environmental Statement (Pegasus Group, 2022) and the relevant sections (Birds) of the Environmental Statement.

**Methodology**

The methodology of the 2022 BBS followed that of the 2021 BBS, as described in full within the Breeding Bird Survey Report (FE-019-200-023-004-R-01-V1) which accompanies the Environmental Statement (Appendix 7.1) and should be read in conjunction with Section 7.2 of the Environmental Statement. In short, the surveyor (Steven Haynes) walked a transect route throughout the Site follow the Common Bird Census technique.

The dates, survey times, and weather conditions of each survey visit in 2022 are detailed in Table 1. Wind speed is recorded using the Beaufort Scale and cloud cover in aviation oktas scale. The field surveys were undertaken by Steve Haynes who is an experienced ornithologist with extensive experience in undertaking bird surveys.

*Table 1: 2022 Breeding bird survey dates, times, weather details.*

| Visit | Date     | Time        | Visibility | Wind Direction | Wind Speed | Rain | Cloud cover | Temp.    |
|-------|----------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|------|-------------|----------|
| 1     | 20.04.22 | 06:30-09:45 | Good       | SW             | 1          | Nil  | 4/8         | 9 >13°C  |
| 2     | 13.05.22 | 06:45-10:30 | Good       | SW             | 2          | Nil  | 6/8         | 11 >15°C |

### Existing Baseline Conditions

The results of the 2022 BBS showed similar species and number of territories as recorded during the 2021 BBS season and typically associated with the field boundary hedgerows.

In addition to the species recorded in 2021, willow warbler (one territory), little owl (one pair at Huscot Farm) and mistle thrush (one territory) were recorded in spring 2022. Whilst Raven is not a species of conservation concern, raven was recorded within the survey area and is presumed to have nested within the grounds of the adjacent Overthorpe Hall.

The results of the spring 2022 data identified one additional bird species of conservation concern (willow warbler) which was possibly a migrant, in addition to the ten species recorded in 2021. The variation in number of territories held within the site and survey area (site and buffer area) between the 2021 and the 2022 surveys are shown in Table 2 below.

*Table 2: Comparison of territories held within the site and (survey area) between 2021 and 2022.*

| Species        | 2021    | 2022    |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Cuckoo         | 0 (1)   | 0 (0)   |
| Stock Dove     | 9 (10)  | 6 (6)   |
| Kestrel        | 1 (1)   | 0 (0)   |
| Skylark        | 1 (1)   | 0 (0)   |
| Mistle thrush  | 1 (1)   | 1 (1)   |
| Song thrush    | 5 (5)   | 2 (2)   |
| Willow warbler | 0 (0)   | 1 (1)   |
| Dunnock        | 12 (16) | 14 (15) |
| Bullfinch      | 1 (1)   | 0 (0)   |
| Linnet         | 3 (3)   | 2 (2)   |
| Yellowhammer   | 3 (3)   | 0 (0)   |

It is plausible that the reduction of breeding bird abundance may be related to the lower daytime temperatures experienced during the early spring period of 2022. Additionally, time of year influences bird behaviour, particularly the amount of time and effort males spend in defending territory, i.e. singing. If during the 2022 survey season, breeding pairs were successful and feeding young then the amount of time defending territory will be significantly reduced. Furthermore, breeding populations fluctuate between years as a result of the over-wintering weather conditions and the knock-on effect of survival rates.

Overall, the breeding bird assemblage within the site and survey area was similar between the two survey periods of 2021 and 2022. Based on the number and conservation status of the additional bird species recorded, the level of importance of the overall bird assemblage stated within the 2021 Breeding Bird Survey Report and Environmental Statement (Section 7.4 'Birds') is considered to remain unchanged.

### **Evolution of the baseline conditions without development**

The additional data does not alter Section 7.5 of the Environmental Statement (Evolution of the baseline conditions without development).

### **Assessment of likely significant effects**

Review of the Proposed Development confirms that the proposals would result in the loss of hedgerow and areas of low value grassland which without mitigation would be significant at a Site to Local level and the assessment of construction impacts in the Environmental Statement remain unchanged with the 2022 data.

The Proposed Development once completed includes areas for enhancing shrub, hedgerow and trees and creation of additional ponds which would be positive for a range of bird species including those additionally recorded in 2022 and the assessment of impact reported in the Environmental Statement during the operational phase remains unchanged.

### **Mitigation and Enhancements**

The mitigation and enhancements (Section 7.7 in relation to Birds) of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged following the 2022 survey data.

### **Residual Effects**

The residual effects (Section 7.8 in relation to Birds) of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged following the 2022 survey data.

### **Cumulative Effects**

The cumulative effects (Section 7.9 in relation to Birds) of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged following the 2022 survey data.

### **Monitoring**

The monitoring recommendations (Section 7.10 in relation to Birds) of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged following the 2022 survey data.

**Summary**

The summary section (Section 7.11 in relation to Birds) and Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged following the 2022 survey data.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.



Dr Holly Smith

MCIEEM

Director