

Lynne Baldwin

From: Laura Bell
Sent: 26 September 2023 14:35
To: DC Support
Subject: Ecology Response for 23/02276/SCOP

For recording and uploading response in DEF as Ecology response please

From: Charlotte Watkins <Charlotte.Watkins@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Laura Bell <Laura.Bell@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: 23/02276/SCOP

With regard to the above scoping request for ecological information requirements - I concur with much of the information given within the BBOWT response submission (dated 8th September) which makes many valid points of aspects that should be included (in addition to NE's annex A). In particular:

- Cumulative impacts from surrounding agreed and proposed future developments should be considered particularly on the ecological functioning of habitats in the wider landscape.
- Assessment of impacts on designated sites to include air pollution, hydrology, recreation and lighting – particularly for the adjacent LWS -should be included.
- I would advise a reassessment of the habitats on site, in particular the value of the willow coppice plantation, in light of submitted independent ecological reports. I am in agreement with BBOWT that 'arable' is unlikely to be the best assessment of this habitat in terms of its ecological value within a metric or impact assessment.
- Bird surveys of breeding and wintering birds (to best practice in terms of number of visits) should be carried out. CDC holds (albeit relatively old) records of common sandpiper, skylark, reed bunting, fieldfare, grasshopper warbler, grey partridge, snipe etc.. on site – most of which are amber or red listed.
- Invertebrate surveys or full justification for scoping out. There are multiple records of brown hairstreak using hedgerows in the area and an impact assessment for this species (and potentially other invertebrates) will be required with identification of the level of mitigation required.
- Botanical surveys or full justification for scoping this out.
- Other species fully considered – in addition to those mentioned within the submission there are records of brown hare and red list birds within 100m of the site. The site is within the Amber zone for suitability for Great Crested Newt (denoting suitable habitat from Nature Space our district licence delivery body) which whilst GCN are discussed is not mentioned.
- Impacts on priority habitats on and off site both through direct loss and indirect degradation via shading, increased lighting, ditching management, decreased buffer vegetation or increased public access.

In addition: At least a 10% net gain for biodiversity should be achieved on site along with an assessment of options for strengthening and retaining green infrastructure at the design stage. The very high level of public use of the site which will occur at certain times will necessitate some areas to be retained and managed solely for biodiversity to ensure habitats can function and this may require consideration of off-site options to mitigate for the loss of this function and the loss of ecological connectivity (e.g. green bridges, nature reserve area etc.. would be valuable here).

Kind regards
Charlotte

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My usual working hours are: Monday-Friday mornings.