

Dear Lewis,

APP/19/00403 | Formation of construction access and haul road for temporary period of 5 years, to facilitate construction for the West of Waterloo Development approved under planning ref APP/10/00828. | Grainger Development Site, Land West of London Road, Waterloo 19.0818

Thank you for consulting me on this application for a temporary haul road.

The application is accompanied by an Ecological Appraisal and Phase 2 Surveys report for Phases 3b and 8 and a Briefing Note (both Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services Ltd, October 2018). The proposed haul road will require the removal of a section of roadside hedgerow off London Road and the construction of the road surface across a large arable field. Whilst I do not have any significant concerns with respect to the removal of a short section of hedgerow (which will be reinstated post works) I would offer a more precautionary approach to this work: the hedgerow is certainly not wholly unsuitable for dormice (which are present in nearby hedgerows) and the species is known to occur in similar roadside habitat elsewhere in the surrounding landscape. Although clearly not as suitable as surrounding woodlands, the habitat appears to offer ample cover for dormice, having been established at least 10 years ago and it comprises a thick, mixed native hedgerow c.3m high and several metres thick. The hedge is within an area surrounded by habitat with numerous dormouse records.

Whilst the risk to dormice is low, it is not negligible. I would therefore recommend that a precautionary method of working is provided. This will demonstrate that the habitat will be removed sensitively and in the presence of a suitably-qualified ecologist.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist