

FAO – Daphne Haywood

Your ref – APP/18/00224. Approval of Reserved Matters (APP/15/00732) comprising construction of commercial vehicle repair and maintenance facility with ancillary sales area. Dunsbury Park, Fitzwygram Way, Havant, PO9 4EE.

Our ref – 242013

Dear Daphne,

Thank you very much for consulting Natural England on the above reserved matters application.

Please note we have not assessed the application and associated documents for impacts on protected species. Natural England has published Standing Advice on protected species. Standing Advice is a material consideration in the determination of applications in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation. If you have any specific questions not covered by our Standing Advice, or have difficulty in applying it to this application please contact us at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

In order for your authority to be assured that the proposal meets the requirements of the standing advice and the additional requirements for biodiversity enhancement as set out in National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 7, 109 and 118, Natural England recommends that the application is supported by a Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (BMEP), or equivalent, that has been agreed by a Hampshire County Council (HCC) Ecologist. A BMEP draws together all the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures for the development in one report to allow these measures to be secured and implemented.

The scope of the BMEP should be agreed with a HCC Ecologist but should include the mitigation and enhancement measures outlined in the environmental impact report as well as further clarification of the boundary of the development proposals and the Cherry Tree Row SINC, mitigation and enhancement strategies for bats, dormice and reptiles, and a landscape plan that utilises appropriate native species. Consideration should also be given to the provision of additional bat roosting opportunities within the established woodland and the provision of a range of bird boxes.

It is noted that Planning Condition A1 of the outline planning permission refers to the approved Landscape, Open Space and Ecology Strategy which states that each phase of the development will adhere to the Habitat Maintenance and Management Plan and this plan will be updated for each new phase of the wider development site. The BMEP should include details of the wider strategy and outline how the mitigation measures for this application adhere to this strategic context. The site is important within a wider ecological network and corridor that supports a diverse assemblage of protected species and biodiversity. Natural England strongly recommends that the proposals support and enhance this ecological network.

The BMEP should outline whether net biodiversity gain is being achieved. It is noted that a Habitat Creation Area is proposed as mitigation and further details of this scheme in the BMEP are required. For example, the phases of development that this area relates to, the timing for the creation of this area, details of future management and associated costs. Any permission should secure appropriate funding provision for maintaining and managing the areas of biodiversity mitigation / enhancement measures, as well as areas of green infrastructure and strategic planting, for perpetuity.

As further phases of development come forward, consideration may need to be given to the provision of additional offsite replacement habitats or an agreed financial contribution for biodiversity enhancements elsewhere calculated using a Biodiversity Compensation Framework, Environment Bank, or similar mechanism.

Please note that provided the HCC Ecologists' are satisfied with the submitted BMEP and the full implementation of the plan is secured by any permission then no further consultation with Natural England on this aspect of the proposal is required. In the event that a BMEP cannot be agreed with the applicant then Natural England should be re-consulted on the proposals so that we can reconsider our advice.

Please let me know if you have any queries or if you need any further information.

Kind regards
Rachel

Rachel Jones
Lead Advisor Sustainable Development
Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team