

From: Norton, Tristan [<mailto:Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>]
Sent: 21 August 2014 09:00
To: David Eaves
Cc: Planning and Development Shared Mailbox
Subject: APP/14/00450 Installation of generator compound Land at Harts Farm, Harts Farm Way. PO9 1HS 14.1157

Dear David,

APP/14/00450 Installation of generator compound Land at Harts Farm, Harts Farm Way. PO9 1HS 14.1157

Thank you for re-consulting me on this application. In summary, I consider that ecological information is required prior to further determination of this application.

The application is not accompanied by any new ecological information – the applicant has included a 2013 ecological survey for an adjacent but different site and a 'biodiversity statement' which requests that the 2013 survey be used to determine the potential ecological impact of this application. Unfortunately, this approach is not acceptable and there should be a bespoke ecological assessment of likely impacts arising from the actual proposals on this site.

As I detailed in my previous response dated 8th July 2014, the proposals entail the siting of the generator compound within land that is currently covered by mature trees and/or other woody vegetation: this alone should trigger the applicant to undertake at least a Phase 1 ecological assessment of the site-specific constraints. Any works affecting trees or taller shrubs may result in impacts to a range of legally-protected species such as roosting bats or nesting birds, with the possibility of species such as badgers and common reptiles also occurring locally: from my knowledge of this location I would certainly say that reptiles are a distinct possibility and indeed there are recent records of reptiles from the immediate area. The potential presence of some protected species may require the applicant to commission detailed Phase 2 ecological surveys in order that any impacts can be fully understood.

In order to fully consider the potential ecological impacts of the proposed works I would recommend that the applicant commissions a Phase 1 ecological survey of the site: this should include an assessment of the potential for the site to support protected species (to be provided by a qualified ecologist (see Natural England guidance on finding a suitably-qualified ecologist <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/spatialplanning/standingadvice/faq.aspx#q13>)). The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (www.cieem.net) holds a database of suitably-qualified ecologists.

A Phase 1 ecological survey will determine whether there is any evidence of protected species or whether the site offers habitat suitable for supporting protected species, and whether the proposed works are likely to result in

impacts to those habitats or species. Unless the consultant is able to conclude that there is no reasonable likelihood of protected species being present (due to negligible potential) or, that if present they are not to be impacted by the works, it is likely that further ecological survey work (Phase 2 survey) will be required prior to determination of the application. The results of any further surveys should be used to provide an assessment of the likely ecological impacts of the proposed works and to inform any mitigation measures.

NPPF and Circular 06/2005 require that planning decisions are based on full, up to date information and, in line with Natural England's standing advice, full protected species information must be available before a decision can be made. Following this guidance, provision of this information should not be deferred as a condition of any planning permission. Without full information at the point of determination it is not possible for the LPA to ensure that any impacts are known and acceptable, to engage with the Habitats Regulations, and to be able to secure any necessary mitigation. In line with NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and the Natural England Standing Advice, I would recommend that this information is required prior to further consideration of this application.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist

Ecology Team

Strategic Environmental Delivery Group,
Economy, Transport and Environment Department
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court West
The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UD
Direct Line: 01962 832335

E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Please note that this advice is given in accordance with the Service Level Agreement that has been signed between Hampshire County Council and your Council. These comments are expressed as a professional view provided to Havant Borough Council and should not, therefore, be interpreted as those of Hampshire County Council.