

From: Liam Ryder | Code DP
Sent: 21 April 2023 15:47
To: Sophie Adams
Cc: Kim Fisher; Mike Carpenter | Code DP; Mark Sperrin
Subject: Land east of Rayleigh Road, Thundersley - 23/0085/OUT
Attachments: Addendum EclA Rayleigh Rd, Thundersley_Final_RevB.pdf; 230421 SubSchdle.pdf

Dear Sophie

I hope this email finds you well.

Further to recent discussions and the receipt of initial responses from statutory consultees, please find attached to this email our Updated Survey Addendum (which updates the surveys contained within the submitted Ecological Impact Assessment). I would be grateful if this could please be circulated within relevant statutory consultees as necessary. I also attach an updated submission schedule. Please do let me know if I need to upload the attached to the Planning Portal.

In addition, our appointed ecologists have considered the comments received from the Essex Badger Protection Group (EBPG)O, and I outline their response below:

"We would like to take the opportunity to provide some further clarity with regard to badgers and the consultation response received in March 2023 from the EBPG. It was noted that the surveys within the original EclA were out of date, however an updated scoping survey was carried out in November 2022 and subsequent sett monitoring surveys were undertaken between 2nd and 23rd December 2022. Sett locations / activity levels have not differed significantly since the original surveys (see attached Addendum EclA, which should hopefully give EBPG some comfort). Additional and updated sett monitoring surveys (i.e. 21 consecutive days using trail cameras, trigger sticks etc) will be undertaken to inform subsequent RM applications and licensing requirements with proposed compensation and mitigation measures approved by Natural England.

Although setts will inevitably be lost, the proposed development has been designed to accommodate badgers as we understand them at this point in time. We know that a number of setts are present, including a large active main sett, and that the site is frequently used by badgers. An artificial sett will be created to compensate for the loss of Sett 8 (see paragraph 4.58 and 4.62 of the EclA), which will be located near the southern boundary (with good connectivity to the wider landscape) and planted up with new thorny species to provide extra shielding. Foraging and dispersal corridors will also be maintained / created to allow badgers to continue to move through the landscape (including underpasses where required) and access new foraging areas within the proposed development (see paragraph 4.64 and 4.65 of the EclA). In terms of construction phase impacts / mitigation, these are provided in paragraph 4.63 of the EclA (and include the measures bulleted within the EBPG response). These mitigation measures will be controlled via a CEMP.

It is considered that the information collected to date, and the compensation / mitigation measures provided in the EclA, are appropriate to inform an outline planning application, with further surveys undertaken to inform subsequent RM applications and Natural England licensing. Any further surveys / assessments are not considered to make a material difference to the conclusions drawn and the compensation / mitigation measures provided (especially as we have already confirmed the presence of a main sett on site, as well as a number of dispersal routes and foraging areas)."

Should you have any queries regarding the attached, or above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards
Liam



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