

From: Melanie Dodd
Sent: 08 November 2018 16:16
To: Deborah Smith
Cc: Planning Comments
Subject: 17/04151/FUL Land parcel at Upper Rissington - biodiversity officer response

Hi Deborah,

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. I have looked back through the original 2008 outline and 2012 reserved matters applications for relevant ecological details for this site. In particular, I note the need to protect a lesser horseshoe bat flight line from existing roosts within the buildings on site (e.g. officer's mess) to the woodland and the provision of a new bat house. I also note the importance of retaining existing calcareous grassland (priority habitat) within several areas of the site, including the retained ecology zones to the north and east of the site.

There are some **amendments that are required for biodiversity reasons**, as follows.

The eastern ecology zones are being retained as informal spaces with mown paths, but the northern area appears to have Hoggin footpaths, which I feel is inappropriate to the natural habitat that is present here. If possible, only the footpath that leads to the allotments should be surfaced and the circular loop to the north through the meadow should revert back to informal mown paths.

The bat flight line is retained and enhanced in accordance with the original landscape strategy, however, I note that the new hedgerows around the officer's mess building have been removed. Is there a reason for this and can these be reinstated?

The wildlife pond in the eastern ecology zone has been retained. I would recommend that this should be left to colonise naturally with planting only occurring after two growing seasons to reduce the risk of non-native and invasive species being introduced inadvertently.

The wildflower mixes are specified as "special general purpose" or "wetland" and "calcareous", but these are not specified in detail and the supplier is not confirmed. More details are therefore required.

The attenuation basin has appropriate planting around the margins, but the base of this feature is not specified. The whole of the attenuation basin should be seeded within an appropriate wildflower mixture (to be specified in more detail, as above) rather than leaving it bare. If the aim for the attenuation basin is for it to hold water seasonally, then this should be confirmed. An alternative habitat should be created within the basin that would cope with the seasonal inundation, e.g. groups of marginal planting and wetland/marshy grassland species.

Once these amendments are made, then the proposals would be in accordance with policy EN8 of the Local Plan 2011-2031 and Chapter 15 of the NPPF with regard to biodiversity mitigation and enhancement.

Kind regards,

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