

From:Paul Phillips
Sent:Thu, 10 Mar 2022 08:04:04 +0000
To:Craig Miles
Cc:PlanningAndGrowth Email
Subject:RE: Planning Application Consultation (22/00319/FUL)

OFFICIAL

Dear Craig Miles

Thank you for consulting me about the application for construction of a Solar Farm and associated works, equipment at British Gypsum Glebe Mine And Cuckoo Bush Farm Leake Road, Gotham.

1. Ecological Survey

An Ecological Assessment report has been supplied with a surveys carried out February 2021 and June 2021; this appear to have been carried out according to good practice and is in date. A Biodiversity Management Plan is included as an Appendix.

2. Species and Habitats

The site consist of Broadleaved Semi-natural Woodland, Coniferous Plantation Woodland, Dense Scrub, Broadleaved Parkland / Scattered Trees, Improved Grassland, Marshy Grassland, Poor Semi-improved Grassland, Tall Ruderal, Arable, Amenity Grassland, Intact Hedge - Species-poor, Defunct Hedge - Species-poor, Hedge with Trees - Species-poor, Fence, Dry Ditch, Buildings, Bare Ground, Other Habitat (Garden) set within a rural landscape.

The site provides low roosting potential for bats (within trees) and rare plants Epilobium, Black bryony and field bindweed within hedgerows. Wild birds were found (all common species) Skylark may potentially use habitat on site; Habitats have potential to support invertebrates; amphibians, potentially including Great Crested Newts (however none were identified); reptiles; commuting and foraging Bats particularly along linear features; and terrestrial mammals ([REDACTED] Brown Hare).

Hedgerow priority habitats were identified on site.

The construction is proposed to take place over the land primarily identified as arable and improved grassland, therefore impacts are not predicted.

The development provides opportunities for ecological enhancement. The favourable conservation status of Protected Species is unlikely to be impacted by this development.

3. Biodiversity Net Gain

A biodiversity impact assessment, along with a proposed habitat plan has been supplied this demonstrates a net gain of 133.34 biodiversity units (44.88%) and 20.23 hedgerow units (76.21%).

4. Recommendations (including recommendations provided by any supplied reports, where applicable) which should be subject of conditions on any outline permission.

- If works have not commenced by June 2023 an update ecological survey is required and every subsequent 2 years if works have not commenced.

[REDACTED]

- All trees with potential to support bats that will be affected as a result of development works will require further survey to establish the possible presence/absence of bat roosts.

- A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should be supplied, covering the biodiversity gain demonstrated in the biodiversity net gain assessment, with the means to implement in the long term. This should include any recommendations of the consultant ecologist (See Appendix 2.2: Biodiversity Management Plan and Figure 1.14 of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal).

- An ecological construction method statement incorporating reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs), should be agreed and implemented including the good practice points below and any supplied by the consultant ecologist.

- The use of external lighting (during construction and post construction) should be appropriate to avoid

adverse impacts on bat populations, see <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2018/09/new-guidance-on-bats-and-lighting> for advice and a wildlife sensitive lighting scheme should be developed and implemented.

- Permanent bat boxes and bird boxes (including swifts) should be incorporated into buildings and where appropriate on retained trees, consideration should be given to the provision of raptor / barn owl boxes. Hedgehog corridors, access and enhancements should be provided within and through site boundaries. Invertebrate enhancements (e.g. bee bricks and Insect hotels) should be provided as appropriate. Reptile and amphibian enhancements e.g. hibernacula or other enhancements should be provided.
- New wildlife habitats should be created where appropriate, including wildflower rich neutral grassland, hedgerows, trees and woodland, wetlands and ponds. For amenity grassland, flowering lawn seed mixes are recommended.
- Any existing hedgerow / trees should be retained and enhanced, any hedge / trees removed should be replaced. Any boundary habitats should be retained and enhanced.
- Where possible new trees / hedges should be planted with native species (preferably of local provenance and including fruiting species). See <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/conservation/treeshedgesandlandscaping/landscapingandtreeplanting/plantin gonnewdevelopments/> for advice including the planting guides (but exclude Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)).
- Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes (SUDs) where required should be designed to provide ecological benefit.
- Good practise construction methods should be adopted including:
 - Advising all workers of the potential for protected species. If protected species are found during works, work should cease until a suitable qualified ecologist has been consulted.
 - Measures to ensure that the roof liners of any building do not pose a risk to roosting bats in the future should be taken.
 - No works, fires or storage of materials or vehicle movements should be carried out in or immediately adjacent to ecological mitigation areas or sensitive areas (including ditches).
 - All work impacting on vegetation or buildings used by nesting birds should avoid the active bird nesting season, if this is not possible a search of the impacted areas should be carried out by a suitably competent person for nests immediately prior to the commencement of works. If any nests are found work should not commence until a suitably qualified ecologist has been consulted.
 - Best practice should be followed during building work to ensure trenches dug during works activities that are left open overnight should be left with a sloping end or ramp to allow animal that may fall in to escape. Also, any pipes over 200mm in diameter should be capped off at night to prevent animals entering. Materials such as netting and cutting tools should not be left in the works area where they might entangle or injure animals. No stockpiles of vegetation, soil or rubble should be left overnight and if they are left then they should be dismantled by hand prior to removal. Night working should be avoided.
 - Root protection zones should be established around retained trees / hedgerows so that storage of materials and vehicles, the movement of vehicles and works are not carried out within these zones.
 - Pollution prevention measures should be adopted
- It is recommended that consideration should be given to climate change impacts (including increased temperatures and rainfall events), management of waste during and post construction and the use of recycled materials and sustainable building methods.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Phillips (CEnv, MCIEEM, MSc)
Ecology and Sustainability Officer
(Working remotely. Normal working days Tue – Fri)

Please think if you need to print this email.

For energy efficiency advice please visit <http://www.warmhomesub.com> or see <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/>

Rushcliffe Borough Council seeks to protect and enhance wildlife and is a member of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (<http://www.nottsbag.org.uk>) and the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Group (www.facebook.com/RNCSIG) and hosts Tree Wardens across Rushcliffe (<https://www.facebook.com/TreesAcrossRushcliffe>)

<https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/energy/>



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Please see the attached planning application consultation in relation to the above at British Gypsum Glebe Mine And Cuckoo Bush Farm Leake Road