



Suffolk Wildlife Trust

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Penny Mills
Planning Department
West Suffolk Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 3YU

13th April 2022

Dear Penny Mills,

RE: DC/20/0614/RM. Application for Reserved Matters pursuant to hybrid planning permission SE/09/1283 for Infrastructure comprising of: the internal estate roads, drainage, POS, landscaping, and allotments for Land at North West Haverhill. Land Nw Of Haverhill Anne Sucklings Lane, Little Wratting, Suffolk.

Thank you for sending us details of this application, we wish to maintain our **holding objection** to this application and we have the following comments:

We have reviewed the updated ecological surveys including the Hazel Dormouse Survey Report (James Blake Associates (JBA), Dec 2019). The report concludes that no evidence of hazel dormouse was found during the survey and therefore no specific mitigation measures for dormice are recommended. However, we recommend that a precautionary approach should be taken for dormouse, considering the presence of local records as well as suitable habitat on-site with connectivity to nearby ancient woodland sites. Additionally, our response dated 8th June 2020, requested that the completed bat activity report be submitted. The bat activity report is referenced within the Updated Ecological Walkover Survey of Phases 2-6 and the relief road at Haverhill, Suffolk (JBA, 25th March 2022) however the full report has not been submitted with this re-consultation.

There also seems to be a discrepancy between the red line boundary shown in maps submitted as part of the ecological reports and the red line boundary shown on the Amended Detailed Hard and Soft Landscaping plan JBA 18-351-29 Rev E and other landscape plans. Map JBA 18-351-29 Rev E shows the Ann Suckling's Way County Wildlife Site (CWS) within the red line boundary, however this area is not included within any of the detailed ecological surveys, see Figure 4 (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, JBA, Jan 2019) and Figure 1 (Updated Ecological Walkover Survey of Phases 2-6 and the relief road at Haverhill, Suffolk, JBA, 25th March 2022). Within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, the Ann Suckling's Way CWS is identified as adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, which seem to contradict other plans submitted with this application. JBA 18/351-28 Rev A also shows 1,476 native hedging plants are intended to be planted within the CWS, however it is not clear whether hedge planting in this location would be suitable without further survey work. Considering the importance of this CWS for biodiversity, with one of only a few Suffolk populations of crested cow-wheat, this area should be included within all ecological surveys of the site and any proposed mitigation or enhancement should be informed by these updated surveys.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require anything further.
Yours sincerely

Ellen Shailes
Ecology and Planning Adviser