

Scanned



Rona Hopkinson
Planning Department
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 3YU

20/10/2010

Dear Rona Hopkinson,

RE: SE/09/1283 Re-consultation: Construction of a relief road and associated works. Outline planning application for residential development, primary school, local centre, public open space, landscaping and related infrastructure. Land at North West Haverhill

Thank you for sending us details of the re-consultation of this application, we have the following comments:

As is acknowledged in the supporting documents the site lies adjacent to Ann Suckling's Way County Wildlife Site (CWS). Our previous representations (letters dated 27th November 2009 and 2nd December 2009) to this application included concerns about the adverse effects that increased levels of public access would have on the site and a preference for the path to be diverted to bypass the CWS. We are pleased that the applicant's have sought to address this issue in the revisions to the application, however there are several points which we feel require clarification.

Firstly, the CWS boundary shown on drawing no. SW5100002-515 is incorrect. The site actually extends further north-east along the existing path, this should be corrected to ensure that no adverse impacts occur on the site unintentionally. If required the full boundary can be obtained from Suffolk Biological Records Centre.

Secondly, it is unclear from the 'plan view' on drawing no. SW5100002-515 where exactly the proposed new hedge, fence and path are located in relation to the boundary of the northern part of the CWS (adjacent to the reservoir and water tower complex). We request that any new planting, fencing and path are kept outside the boundary of the CWS to avoid any adverse impact. Indeed there is already an existing hedge to the east of the path in this area, therefore the new fence and path should be located on the eastern side of this hedge.

Finally, although we support the provision of a new hedge and fence along the line of the new path, we request that any planting is kept to the eastern side of the existing path to avoid an adverse impact on the CWS.

During the construction phase of the relief road, operations must not impact upon the CWS in any way, particularly earth movements when creating embankments. It is also essential that the CWS is not used for parking or turning vehicles, or for storage of building materials.

With regard to the other impacts of the development on biodiversity outlined in our previous representations, we consider that the mitigation measures proposed are sufficient

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to ensure that there will be no significant adverse effect on any protected and/or biodiversity action plan species or habitats. We request that, should permission be granted, these measures are secured by planning condition or legal agreement as appropriate.

We support the inclusion of a pre-commencement planning condition requiring the production of an Ecological Management Plan (Supplementary Environmental Statement paras. 6.14 and 6.15). As a point of clarification the CWS is currently managed on a voluntary basis by the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project, not Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT). Therefore, along with SWT, they should be involved in any future discussions regarding long term monitoring and management of the site.

Please contact us if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

James Meyer
Conservation Planner