

Helen Hawkes
Planning Manager, Wyre Forest District Council

By email: Helen.Hawkes@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Our Ref: JMQ/EP/221575
Contact: Sarah Stone
Direct Dial: 07387 261 300

Date: 15th February 2023

Dear Helen

20/1071/FUL HUSUM WAY: DISCHARGE OF PLANNING CONDITIONS 27 AND 29

I am writing to you in relation to the above planning condition and the discharge of Conditions 27 and 29.

Condition 27 requires an additional ecological walkover survey and report to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. BWB undertook an updated ecological walkover survey at the Site on 12th September 2022. A letter report, detailing this, has been appended to this letter. In summary, the updated Site walkover provided recent data on the habitats present and their condition, and any changes to the ecological value of the Site and its potential to support protected/notable species. The survey found that whilst habitat succession meant the Site had become modified grassland (from a previously identified ephemeral/short-perennial habitat), there were no additional opportunities for protected or notable species, no further surveys or mitigation above that previously outlined at application stage were required and the ecological impact of the scheme remained low.

Condition 29 requires a plan for the fox den located on the Site. Given that foxes receive no legal protection in the UK, with the exception of under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act and are of least conservation concern (source: The Mammal Society and The Wildlife Trusts), it is recommended to remove the existing fox den in a humane manner, with the den dug up slowly by hand (or with small machinery if necessary), encouraging the foxes to move on their own. This will ensure that no foxes are harmed by the process. The proposed development includes the retention of boundary habitats, as well as an area of Public Open Space to the north and an attenuation basin to the east, which will provide sufficient habitat for foxes to re-establish their den. The landscaping scheme has been designed to include scrub and hedgerows to give sufficient cover for this species.

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I trust that the above will provide sufficient information for the discharge of Conditions 27 and 29 but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Stone MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist

Enc: HWK-BWB-ZZ-XX-RP-LE-0002_WKO-S2-P01

Living Space Housing Ltd
Hayfield House
Arleston Way
Shirley
B90 4LH GB

Our Ref: HWK-BWB-ZZ-XX-RP-LE-0002
Contact: Sarah Stone, Associate Ecologist
Direct Dial: 07387 261 300
Date: 15th September 2022

Dear Alex,

HUSUM WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

Introduction

BWB Consulting Ltd was instructed by Living Space Housing Ltd (the Client) to carry out a Biodiversity Net Gain survey of the Site off Husum Way, Kidderminster.

Methodology

A walkover survey was conducted by Joe Mclaughlin BSc (Hons) MCIEEM on the 12th of September 2022. The primary purpose of the survey was to assess the condition of the habitats present on-site under the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 for the purposes of calculating the baseline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) score to allow the change in score post-development to be calculated. The results of the BNG assessment and associated metric can be found in a stand-alone report (BWB, 2022).

An ecology survey was carried out by Betts Ecology in 2021 to assess the potential impact of the planning application and that report should be read in conjunction with this letter and the BWB BNG report.

Results

The previous ecology report, conducted by Betts Ecology in 2021 concluded that the main habitat on-site was ephemeral/short-perennial habitat, with hedgerows and trees. Since this survey was conducted the habitat has, through natural succession, developed into modified grassland and as such for the purposes of the BNG assessment has been mapped as such. In addition, boundary habitats which were not previously mapped but would need consideration for the purposed of BNG have also been mapped i.e., hedgerow, scrub, bracken and trees.

Despite the habitat succession into modified grassland, and taking into account boundary habitats not previously mapped, the conclusions of the Betts Ecology report are still considered valid. The ecological impact of the scheme remains low, as described previously and there are no additional opportunities for protected or notable species and no further surveys or specific mitigation, above that previously outlined by Betts Ecology, has been recommended.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Stone MSc BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
Associate Ecologist