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From: Gen Broad - Ecological Consultant [redacted]
Sent: 22 April 2024 11:04
To: Stephanie.Bryant
Cc: Planning
Subject: DC/23/1918 Woolvens Farm Ashington

Categories: Consultations

Dear Stephanie

Application: DC/23/1918
Location: Woolvens Farm Billingshurst Road Ashington RH20 3BB
Proposal: Demolition of existing barn and outbuildings and erection of replacement 4- bed dwelling

We have been re-consulted on the above application, but as far as I can see, there has been no additional ecological information following our recommendation for a temporary holding objection dated 2nd January 2024 (to William Omoma, then the case officer).

We requested further information on any impact to bats in trees as it appears from the Ecological Technical Note – Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment (CSA Environmental, October 2023) that the buildings had been assessed, but no Ground Level Assessment of the trees was undertaken. This is required as the site is surrounded by trees and hedgerows and there is no information on any impact to trees which may contain bat roosts, although we can see from the subsequent Preliminary Tree Survey Report (Wood, March 2024) that all trees are to be retained on site. However, there is no information in the Preliminary Tree Survey Report (Wood, March 2024) about any pruning or crown lifting to trees which could impact bats and their roosts nor proposed lighting.

It is particularly important that all information is submitted to the LPA concerning bats as the site lies within the 12km Wider Conservation Area for the Sussex bat Special Area of Conservation (Sussex Bat Special Area of Conservation Planning and Landscape Scale Enhancement Protocol) and therefore may be within the range of foraging areas required by Barbastelle bats, which are the qualifying feature for the SAC. The LPA will need to prepare a project level HRA to assess the likely effects from this development on the bats of the Sussex bat SACs.

In addition, we recommended in our response dated 2nd January 2024 that an assessment should be undertaken on any impact of works on aquatic species, including Water Vole (protected species), as Lancing Brook lies adjacent to the site. We cannot see that any additional information has been submitted regarding aquatic species.

We look forward to receiving the additional information requested to support revised comments.

Please contact us with any queries.

Best wishes
Gen

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