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By email only; (AJWatson@savills.com)
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Our ref: RS/13086/AH

Dear Andrew:

Land at Keepers Cottages, Coolham. Phlorum reference 13086:

It is understood that planning permission subject to conditions which include condition 3, which states:

> Pre-Commencement Condition 3:
>
> "*No development shall commence until a Non-Licensed Precautionary Method Statement for Hazel Dormouse has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include, but not be limited to, a presence/absence survey and assessment, mitigation measures, and enhancement measures where necessary. The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved recommendations and shall be maintained thereafter.*
>
> *Reason: As these matters are fundamental to safeguard the ecology and biodiversity of the area in accordance with Policy 31 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015), and to enhance Protected and Priority Species/habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority Habitats & Species).*"

Places Service, on behalf of Horsham District Council, have raised concerns that there has been no survey work undertaken at the site in relation to Hazel dormice and seek justification for the approach taken to not undertake surveys at the site for this protected species.

We acknowledge that there twelve records of hazel dormice within 2km of the site, with the last record recorded in 2009. The location of these records is not provided but Rosie Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS), 1.3km to the west, has records of hazel dormice. On site we acknowledge that there is some suitable boundary habitat for hazel dormice in the form of a hedgerow, and that this hedgerow connects to wider suitable habitat offsite. However, the hedgerow is thin in places and heavily managed with large gaps measuring approximately 10m at the north and south. Currently the scope of works do not directly impact this hedgerow. It is considered likely that the offsite habitats offer more suitable habitats for dormice, which include less intensively managed hedgerows and woodland.

There are no direct impacts anticipated on the hedgerow due to the construction process. There may be minor indirect impacts due to the noise impact during the development. However, the noise impacts during the construction phase will be short term impacts and due to the scale of the development they are not considered significant.

Due to the scope of works and the availability of better and more suitable habitat within the immediate vicinity, it is considered that instead of survey work for these species, precautionary working methods would be sufficient to safeguard any protected species associated with the boundary hedgerow and habitats. Detailed methodology and mitigation could all be covered in the document required by condition 6 which requires working methods for protected species, with method statements which would include working measures such as controlled clearance, buffers to hedges, lighting and toolbox talks.

Yours sincerely



Amber Howie
Environmental Consultant

Encs.