

HERTFORDSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

Environment, County Hall, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8DN

Mrs S Smith
Planning Officer
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6A

Ask for: B. Tranter
Our Ref:
Your Ref: N6/2012/0854/MA
Tel: 01992 556155
Date: 7/06/2012

08 JUN 2012

Dear Mrs Smith,

Planning application: N6/2012/0854/MA. Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, WGC. Formation of new firearms training range, replacement bullet catcher and backstop structure with associated landscaping.

HBRC have the following comments to make on the above application:

HBRC database and evaluation.

We do not hold any biological data (habitats or species) for the development site.

Aerial photographs show that the site is largely an area of amenity grassland with a small rifle range to the western end. The grass was managed as part of the adjacent sports field but recent aerials indicate that it has been left uncut. It is assumed that the grass is of low ecological value. Trees and shrubs along the embankment to the south and east are to be retained in the proposed scheme.

We conclude that, because of the habitat supported, the presence of European Protected Species is unlikely and we consider that an ecological survey is not required.

Recommendations.

The proposals have the potential to benefit local biodiversity. Any landscaping should use native species of trees and shrubs and a suitable grassland seed mix, such as a Emorsgate Wild Seeds Meadow Mix, that suits local soil conditions should be used on the created embankments.

We trust these comments are of assistance in determining this application.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Tranter PhD MIEEM
Ecological Consultant for HBRC