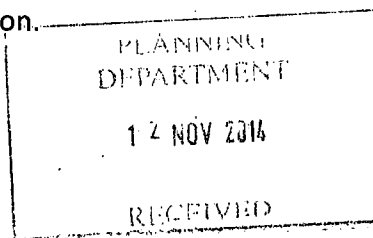


From: Anita Parry [Anita.Parry@hertfordshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 12 November 2014 16:11
To: Planning
Subject: Statutory comments on application - N6/2014/2008/FP Land to the west Chequersfield WGC
Attachments: Land to the west Chequersfield WGC N6.2014.2008.FP_FURTHER BADGER SURVEY & METHOD STATEMENT & BIRD CAUTION.pdf

Please find attached my comments on this planning application.

Many thanks
Anita



Anita Parry MCIEEM
Ecology Advisor
Hertfordshire Ecology
Environmental Resource Planning
Postal Point CHN109
Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN
t: 01992 556149

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Environmental Resource Planning
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Tel: 01992 555220

Mr H Laird
Development Management Officer
Welwyn Hatfield Planning
Case Officer
Welwyn Hatfield Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6A

Ask for: Anita Parry
Tel: 01992 556149
Date: 11/11/2014

Dear Mr H Laird,

Planning application: N6/2014/2008/FP

Location: Land to the west Chequersfield WGC

Description: Change of use to operational railway to facilitate installation of electricity feeder station

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

We do not have any biological records (habitats or species) for the application site itself or the nearby vicinity.

An *Ecology Walkover Survey* was undertaken by Jacobs on 3 February 2014 and confirmed the habitats present and likelihood for protected species. Badgers / setts and nesting birds need to be considered to minimise impact from development and avoid possible protected species issues.

Active badger setts are present on the western embankment. **I agree with the consultants recommended that no works are permitted within 30m of these setts until further surveys have been carried out.** These should more accurately ascertain the home range of the badger population and to identify territorial boundaries and potential new sett locations, if considered necessary.

Any displaced animals or setts need to be adequately mitigated / compensated for. I advise the **production of a Method Statement / Construction Management Plan to minimize the risk to the badgers during development** and suggest they are applied as a **Condition of Approval**.

Notwithstanding to the above, to avoid harm to protected species I recommend the following **Informative** is added to any permission granted:

- It is an offence to take or disturb the breeding or resting location of protected species and for European Protected Species (all Bats, Great crested newt, Otter, Hazel dormouse) and badgers, licences may also be required if so. Precautionary measures should be taken to avoid harm where appropriate. If badgers, or evidence of them, is discovered during the course of any development, works should stop immediately and advice sought as to how to proceed. This may be obtained from: a suitably qualified ecological consultant; Natural England: 0845 6014523 or the Herts & Middlesex Badger Group.

- For birds, the removal of trees & shrubs should be avoided during the breeding season (March to September inclusive). If this is not possible then a search of the area should be made by a suitably experienced Ecologist and if active nests are found, then clearance must be delayed until the nesting period has finished.

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

Regards,

Anita Parry

Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology

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