

From: Levine, Cody
Sent: 14 December 2020 15:41
To: Aldridge, Steven
Subject: FW: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

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Steve

Further to my last email on this, I've had an exchange with Paul Allen at WFDC who is **not content** with the report and has asked for clarity on some specific points. On further reflection I'm supportive of his request and agreed to pass this to yourself so that, if you're willing, you might ask the applicant to consider these questions further.

Paul feels the application would benefit from further information on:

- A map showing extent of area surveyed for dormouse
- Name of surveyor and confirmation of their competence (experience and qualifications) to undertake the dormouse survey
- Amounts of nuts surveyed
- Rationale for selecting nut search survey method

Rationale for request: I think the first two points relate to BS42020:2013 clauses 4.3.2, 6.6.1 and 6.7.1. I think the latter two points are in relation to NE's standing advice, which recommends that nut searches are only used: in conjunction with other methods (or to update an older survey), between September and December (I think one of the surveys was in this date range), and searches comprise 5 quadrats of 10mX10m OR checks of 100 nuts for signs of dormice.

I'd welcome any clarification or additional information the applicant can offer on these points.

Many thanks

Cody.

From: Levine, Cody
Sent: 04 December 2020 14:23
To: Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Cc: Mindykowski, Adam <AMindykowski@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Thanks very much Steve. This is very helpful in understanding consideration for dormouse in the scheme. No further comments on dormice from me at this stage, thank you. However please do let me know if any further assessment from me of the survey reports submitted would be helpful to facilitate determination.

With regard WWT's comments on understanding sectional profiles of the retained T22 in restored landform: I agree it would be beneficial to see this and I'd welcome a plan showing that section if it could be made available. However, with recent confirmation that dewatering of the root plate isn't considered to pose a risk, and that adequate tree protection measures will be implemented, I'm reassured that T22 is likely to survive operations. Although the two themes are inexorably intertwined I think this perhaps becomes more of a landscape than ecological matter as to whether the tree appears appropriately integrated into its final restored landform. As this is outside my expertise I'll defer to my colleagues' consideration on that appropriateness, but I would be interested to see that sectional plan as I think it's likely helpful in better understanding the amended restoration proposal.

Best regards.
Cody.

From: Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 December 2020 14:53
To: Levine, Cody <CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Cody,

Further to your comments on Lea Castle Farm Quarry, please find below a response from the applicant and the attached requested Lea Castle Dormouse Report for your consideration / records.

Do you wish to make any further comments in view of this clarification?

Kind regards

Steve

Steven Aldridge
Team Manager – Development Management
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP
Tel: 01905 843510
Mob: 07985334367
Email: saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk



From: Robin Smithyman <robin@keddltd.co.uk>
Sent: 01 December 2020 10:32
To: Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Steve,

Thank you for forwarding the comments from the County Ecologist.

It is confirmed that tree root zone protection will be in place around Tree 22 in accordance with BS5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design , demolition and construction – recommendations.

The local water table will not be affected as it is ~34m below current surface levels within the area.

As requested within the County Ecologists comments please find attached a copy of the Dormouse Survey Report.

If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Robin



Robin Smithyman

Director

Fox Studio, King Street, Much Wenlock, Shropshire TF13 6BL

robin@keddltd.co.uk 07496 154504

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From: "Aldridge, Steven" <SAldridge@worcestershires.gov.uk>

Date: Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 11:24

To: Robin Smithyman <robin@keddltd.co.uk>

Subject: FW: Further Information (Regulation 25) - Land at Lea Castle Farm, Kidderminster, Worcestershire - Ref: 19/000053/CM

Dear Robin,

With regard to the above proposal. Please find attached comments from the County Ecologist (no objections subject to conditions). Please can you supply a copy of the 2020 dormouse surveys.

The County Ecologist seeks confirmation that the implementation of a tree root protection zone around veteran tree T22 will be sufficient to ensure a functional buffer unaffected by any changes to the water table.

Are you able to provide a clarification email response to this matter raised by the County Ecologist?

Kind regards

Steve

Steven Aldridge

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