

Simon Barlow

From: Alastair Macquire [Alastair.Macquire@aspect-landscape.com]
Sent: 29 May 2012 11:07
To: Richard White
Cc: Geoff Armstrong; Lynsey Rigg
Subject: 4996/02 RAF Daws Hill - Ecological Interim Summary
Importance: High
Attachments: ECO2616 Interim Summary [complete].pdf

Dear Richard,

Further to my other email, please find attached an Interim Summary in terms of ecology at the RAF Daws Hill site for your reference. The points below act as a brief summary of the attached. Again this information will also be circulated to Jonathan for his reference.

- Ecological survey work has previously been undertaken at the site in 2008. This survey work recorded the site to be largely of low ecological value, with ecological interest limited to the use of the site by bats (including a confirmed bat roost), an adjacent Local Wildlife Site (Keep Hill Wood LWS), and use of the adjacent woodland by Badgers.
- Aspect have subsequently been commissioned to undertake an update Phase I survey of the site. This is now complete, with this survey work recording the site to remain largely as previously described, with the majority of habitats of limited ecological value. However, it is considered that the trees within the site and the woodland edge along the northern site boundary are of some elevated ecological value.
- Part of the offsite woodland (located immediately adjacent to the northern site boundary) is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Consideration has been given to the treatment of this woodland, both in terms of minimising the direct effects of the proposed development and the potential for increased recreational impacts. Discussions with Wycombe District Council are ongoing in respect of the potential for increased recreational use of the woodland.
- A number of buildings are considered to offer opportunities for roosting bats. As such, where possible, internal surveys of buildings with moderate or greater potential to support roosting bats have been undertaken. This survey work recorded no evidence of bats within the inspected buildings. However, a number of buildings were recorded to support external features such as raised roofing felt and gaps in soffit boards, which could offer some potential for roosting bats.
- In line with current guidance, further survey work in respect of bats is also required, in the form of emergence (dusk) and return (dawn) surveys. We are now in the optimum season for undertaking these surveys and this work is currently underway. It is expected that this survey work will be ongoing for the next two to three months.
- Badgers are also known to make use of the adjacent woodland and site. As such, this species is fully considered as part of the development.

Should you have any comments or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Alastair Macquire

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