

Our ref: 7301 / AJR / KDG

Anthony Greaves
Hallam Land Management Limited
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17th January 2020

Dear Anthony

**Land off Carr Road, Deepcar (Planning Reference Number: 17/04673).
Ecological Update & Review.**

Further to your recent meeting with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) regarding the above-mentioned site, Section 1 provides a resume of the results of the updated Phase 1 Habitat survey. Section 2 provides a review of the ecological submission to the LPA during the determination period of this planning application.

Section 1: Updated Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The updated Phase 1 Habitat Survey was completed on 07 January 2020 by a Senior Ecologist FPCR. The Senior Ecologist has six years post graduate experience in ecological consultancy and has achieved FISC Level 3.

Methodology

The survey followed the standard Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodologyⁱ as recommended by Natural England, and comprised a walkover of the site, mapping and broadly describing the principal habitat types and identifying the dominant plant species present within each habitat type.

The survey was not undertaken during the April – September period but given the habitats previously recorded the survey result are adequate to confirm the habitat types present within the site and inform the resolution of this planning application.

Results and Assessment

Habitats

A description of the current habitats present within the site are provided below. The locations of the habitat described are presented on Figure 1.

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Since completion of the previous survey work in May and June 2016, no significant changes were recorded to either the habitats or the management of the habitat within the site. The dominant habitat comprised cattle or sheep grazed poor semi-improved grassland. A single field compartment was semi-improved grassland which appeared to have been cut for hay. Across the site, the grassland sward was short and the species assemblages was similar to that recorded during previous surveys.

At the field margins of the south eastern field, there had been a slight increase in the extent of bramble scrub. Tall ruderal vegetation was still present within and at the edges of the bramble scrub. Scrub and tall ruderal vegetation are of no more than local level value and as such this minor change does not make a significant or material change to the previous ecological assessment submitted to the LPA over the determination period.

Fauna

The single mature tree on the edge of the Fox Glen Woodland adjacent to the northern boundary of the site identified with the potential to support a bat roost in 2016 was still present. The roost potential offer by this tree had not increased or decreased.

Given the habitats within the site were largely unchanged and the habitat management has been maintained, the potential for the site to support additional species or significant additional numbers of the species recorded over the extensive surveys completed in 2016 and 2017 was concluded to be unlikely. Therefore, the results of species-specific survey work remain valid and no new species are likely to have colonised the site in the interim period.

Summary

At the time of the updated survey, the habitat and the site conditions were recorded to be largely unchanged. The potential tree roost on the fringe of the Fox Glen is retained and buffered, thus the tree and any potential roost in the tree is not affected by the proposals.

As the habitat within the site have not significant changed since the previous surveys, the result of the previous species specific survey work remain valid and minor the revision to the masterplan do not require any further ecological surveys or alter the overall assessment or conclusions of the ecological submissions over the determination period.

Section 2: Ecological Review

To assist the Council to resolve the planning application the following provides a review of the documents submitted to the authority during the determination period. This review only considers documents with relevance to Ecology and Nature Conservation.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening

Prior to submission of the planning application two screening opinions were produced by DLP Planning. These screening opinions provided the Competent Authorities adequate ecological information covering all relevant ecological receptors and an outline of the proposed mitigation, where required, to reach a decision whether the application required full assessment against the EIA Regulations.

The first screening opinion was submitted to Sheffield City Council (SCC) on 11 January 2017. In terms of Ecology and Nature Conservation, this screening opinion provided a resume of the ecological works completed at the site and consideration of the potential effects of the proposals including those related to statutory and non-statutory designated sites in the zone of influence surrounding the proposed development.

The screening opinion confirmed that the proposed development had been subject to a standard phase 1 habitat survey and species-specific surveys for badgers, breeding birds, reptiles and bat surveys (including roost assessment and activity surveys).

The dominant habitat was confirmed to be species poor semi-improved grassland. Other habitats present within the site were confirmed to be limited comprising a single hedgerow, a small group of