Dear Ms Moseley,

Application ref: WSCC/019/20 Our ref: 314293

Natural England has no comments to make on this application.

Natural England has not assessed this application for impacts on protected species. Natural England has published <u>Standing Advice</u> which you can use to assess impacts on protected species or you may wish to consult your own ecology services for advice.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have also published standing advice on <u>ancient</u> <u>woodland and veteran trees</u> which you can use to assess any impacts on ancient woodland.

Priority Habitat as identified on Section 41 list of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

The consultation documents indicate that this development includes an area of priority habitat, as listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the application is not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not this application is consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may be able to provide information and advice on the environmental value of this site and the impacts of the proposal to assist the decision making process. We advise LPAs to obtain specialist ecological or other environmental advice when determining the environmental impacts of development.

We recommend referring to our SSSI Impact Risk Zones (available on <u>Magic</u> and as a downloadable <u>dataset</u>) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice</u>.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Ball

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www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see <u>here</u> For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see <u>here</u>

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