

30/04/2018

WSCC Ecological Response to...

APPLICATION No.: WSCC/015/18/NH

PROPOSAL: Recycling, Recovery and Renewable Energy Facility and Ancillary Infrastructure

SITE: Former Wealden Brickworks (Site HB), Langhurstwood Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QD

Summary

There is no ecological objection to the proposed development. Within the constraints of the site all ecological surveys are compliant. Proposed mitigation and enhancement is reasonable and adequate. There is no need for any additional conditions to control ecological works beyond the normal conditions seeking compliance with the submitted Environmental Statement. Activity affecting great crested newts will be managed under licence.

The LPA may wish to attach an informative reminding the applicant of their duty to secure a European Protected Species licence prior to starting works affecting GCN habitat.

Recommended Informative

The applicant is advised that a European Protected Species Licence pertaining to great crested newts will be required from Natural England prior to the start of development or any preparatory works likely to impact upon them or their habitat. Failure to secure the licences beforehand may lead to prosecution.

Notes

Regarding notable protected species (European protected):

- It is anticipated that operational impacts on great crested newts from the new facility would be negligible, leading to effects of negligible significance (site level).
 - o Temporary significant effects to be carried out under a European Protected Species licence
- There is high confidence that impacts to foraging and commuting bats on the site and its immediate surrounds during operation would be negligible, leading to an effect of negligible significance (site level).
- There is no evidence of bats roosting within the building. Given the low availability of foraging habitat on site and the abundance of such habitat in the surrounding landscape, the site is considered only of site level importance for foraging/commuting for common species of bat (common and soprano pipistrelle) due to the presence of the railway adjacent to the western site boundary.

Regarding notable protected species (Domestically protected):

- The impact on nesting birds would be managed and therefore negligible, leading to an effect of negligible significance (site level).
- It is unlikely that reptiles will be using the site.

Enhancement

- In the longer term, the planting scheme for the facility would become established and mature, resulting in some potential for low beneficial impacts in terms of new habitat provision. With effective management of the habitats in the long term, this could lead to a minor beneficial effect (site-local level).
- Provision for retention and enhancement of some scrub/trees toward the north of the site
- Planting of new trees/scrub;
- Creation of tussocky/wildflower grassland areas; and
- Planting of aquatic/marginal species within the areas of the ponds in applicant's ownership.
- Additional bird nesting provision is proposed.

Designated sites

There is no impact pathways between the development and the nearby non-statutory sites. It is therefore anticipated that there would be no impact or effect on non-statutory designated sites. The same is true of statutory designated sites.

Cumulative effects

Given the habitat loss within the boundary is small in its extent, it is not anticipated that the 3Rs Facility would contribute to any significant cumulative effects.

[Don Baker MCIEEM](#) | Team Manager / Senior Ecologist, Strategic Planning, [West Sussex County Council](#)

Location: 1st Floor Northleigh, Tower Street, PO19 1RH

Internal: 26439 | External: +44 (0) 3302 226439 | E-mail: don.baker@westsussex.gov.uk

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