

Date: 20th October 2022
Our Ref: CB/BD/18.266

Unit 9 Oak Tree Court
Mulberry Drive
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8RS

Mr Robert Lankshear
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Planning Department
Dock Office
Barry Docks
Barry
CF63 4RT

Tel: 029 2073 2652
www.asbriplanning.co.uk

Dear Robert,

Application Ref. 2020/01170/OUT
Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth

Further to the comments received from NRW dated 8th September and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Ecology Officer dated 9th and 28th September in relation to application ref. 2020/01170/OUT, please find an updated Baseline Ecology Report enclosed, which includes details of all update surveys undertaken on site (subsequent to the ecology baseline submitted in June 2022).

Updated Ecology Baseline

Please find enclosed an updated '**Technical Appendix 8.8: Update Baseline Ecology Report' (EDP, October, 2022)** – the document has been updated to provide the full results of update surveys carried out throughout 2022. In summary, these include the following:

- Update to existing baseline information during the active bat season in 2022:
 - Emergence/re-entry surveys for buildings during May and June 2022
 - Bat activity surveys updated during May, June, July and September 2022
- Breeding bird surveys undertaken on 14 April, 5 May, and 6 June 2022
- Update Extended Phase 1 survey – additional information collected 22 February 2022
- Detailed badger surveys – completed on 22 February 2022
- Dormice tubes - monthly visits between May and September 2022
- Great crested newts - Habitat Suitability Index and presence/likely absence surveys 19 and 20 April 2022.
- Artificial refugia - checked for the presence of reptiles on seven occasions between April and September 2022

The ES Addendum Chapter submitted in June 2022 (Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology) has been reviewed against the findings from the update surveys and EDP confirm that there has been no change to the species IEFs of Local or greater value that require consideration within the detailed assessment, and all have remained as the same value. Within the text from the baseline section for each species it is specified that "Update surveys are being carried out between April and September 2022. If the findings differ significantly from 2017, the ES will be updated accordingly". None of the changes are considered significant and the detailed baseline survey results have not impacted the value/mitigation for any of species.

In regards to the request by NRW for climbed, endoscope inspections for roosting bats, this has been discussed in detail with the Applicant's Ecologist (EDP), and it is proposed that further surveys are completed prior to any proposed tree felling/pruning (with this requirement to be specified within, and secured through a condition relating to the submission and approval of a Landscape Environmental Management Plan).

Detailed Design Matters

The detailed design comments raised within the Ecology Officer's consultation response of 9th and 28th September are noted and acknowledged, and will be fully addressed at the detailed design stage when a Reserved Matters Application is prepared. This will include a thorough assessment of the detailed site layout on a focused/directed plot-by-plot basis so as to allow full consideration of hedgerow positioning in relation to the final reserved matters layout which is to be built out (to ensure that all potential hedgerow loss is minimised).

We trust that the submitted update to the ecological baseline will allow for the conclusion of the assessment of ecological impact. Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,



Catherine Blyth
Associate