

awilford

From: awilford
Sent: 08 September 2020 15:44
To: gunner, hannah
Cc: Paul Henry
Subject: RE: Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor - Ecological Update - Ref MC/20/1478
Attachments: ECO5808 BN Dormouse dv1.pdf

Afternoon Hannah,

Further to the submission of the Phase II Ecology Report (below) - please see attached technical note relating to the final dormouse survey confirming no presence of the species for the public file.

Did Rob have any comments on the informal highways not submitted?
Additionally, has the video of the meeting been circulated yet?



Andrew Wilford

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From: awilford
Sent: 10 August 2020 11:43
To: gunner, hannah <hannah.gunner@medway.gov.uk>
Cc: Paul Henry <phenry@esquiredevelopments.com>
Subject: Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor - Ecological Update - Ref MC/20/1478

Morning Hannah,

Further to our ongoing discussions in respect of the above site, please find attached the following:

- Phase II Results – Bats and Dormice.
- Net Gain Biodiversity Calculation.

In respect of the Net gain calculation, it should be noted that the final output for net biodiversity is a significant and substantial 34.8% - which clearly exceeds the 10% requirement that is due to come into effect in the near future. This demonstrates that the scheme is bringing forward a substantial habitat net gain that not only improves the site's biodiversity, but clearly enhances and expands the Hogmarsh valley habitat. This is a significant benefit.

I trust the above assists and happy to discuss the submitted material.



Andrew Wilford

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Technical Briefing Note

Project: Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor, Medway
(ECO5808)

Technical Briefing Note: Dormouse Survey Results

Date: 8 September 2020

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1. Aspect Ecology was commissioned by Esquire Developments Ltd. in January 2020 to undertake an Ecological Appraisal in respect of proposed development of Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor, Medway (ref: MC/20/1478), centred at grid reference TQ 75329 70444. The initial results of the assessment, based on a desk study and Phase I habitat survey and some initial Phase II surveys, are presented within Aspect Ecology's report entitled 'Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor, Medway: Ecological Appraisal', dated June 2020.
- 1.2. A further report entitled 'Land at Upnor Road, Upper Upnor, Medway: Phase II Survey Results (Bats and Dormouse)', dated July 2020, was provided detailing the bat survey results, along with the initial Dormouse survey results which had been collected at that point. At the time of writing this report, a single survey remained to be undertaken relating to Dormouse, and as such this note details the results from this final survey.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. Surveys have been undertaken between April and August 2020 to establish the presence/absence of Dormouse within the site. Survey work followed the methodology set out within best practice guidance, whereby nesting tubes are attached to branches of trees and shrubs and checked on a regular basis for signs of use by Dormouse.
- 2.2. The guidance employs an indexation system to define survey effort, based on the number of tubes deployed and months over which these are in place and are checked for signs of use. Months in which use of nest tubes by Dormouse is more likely afford a higher number of points than months when there is a lower likelihood of use. The guidance recommends that determination of absence of Dormouse from a site should be based on a survey effort score of at least 20 points.
- 2.3. Accordingly, a total of 98 Dormouse nest tubes were deployed within the site on 3 April 2020. Nest tubes were checked on 28 May, 20 June and 10 August 2020, giving a total survey effort score of well over 20 points across the site.

3. Survey Results

- 3.1. **Legislation:** Dormouse is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and is a European Protected Species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Such legislation affords protection to individuals of the species and their breeding sites and places of rest. Dormouse is also a S41 Priority Species.
- 3.2. **Background Records:** No records of Dormouse were returned from the desktop study.
- 3.3. **Survey Results and Evaluation.** Whilst the majority of the site is not considered to support suitable habitat for Dormouse, being dominated by arable land, some habitats of potential value are present including hedgerows along with the woodland which lies adjacent to the southern site boundary. As such, a specific Dormouse survey has been carried out, involving the erection of 98 nest tubes within areas of potential habitat in April 2020.
- 3.4. The nest tubes were checked in May, June and August 2020 to identify any evidence of Dormouse. During these checks, no nesting material or feeding remains indicative of Dormouse were found. Indeed, no evidence for any mammal species were found at the site during the Dormouse surveys save for a small amount of droppings which were not possible to identify. As such, it is considered that this species is absent from the site and does not form an important ecological feature.
- 3.5. The Phase II addendum report included a precautionary mitigation strategy, to safeguard Dormice in the event they were confirmed on the final survey. Given this species has been found to be absent from the site, it is considered that this precautionary strategy is no longer necessary, particularly with regard to licencing. Nevertheless, the proposals have incorporated a number of design principles which were partly designed to safeguard and benefit Dormouse (in the event they were confirmed at the site), such as maintaining connectivity of wooded habitats around the site, and providing additional wooded habitat at the site boundaries, particularly at the south. This will benefit other species which may make use of the site, and will provide benefits to wider biodiversity in the area.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. This note sets out the results of the final August 2020 Dormouse survey, completed following the Phase II Addendum report. No evidence for the presence of Dormouse was recorded during the surveys at the site, and accordingly this species is not considered to form a constraint to the proposals, and the precautionary mitigation strategy detailed in the Phase II Addendum report is not required. Nevertheless, design principles incorporated in relation to Dormouse (such as increased wooded habitat provision) will provide wider benefits to biodiversity at the site.