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5633: LAND SOUTH OF SUMMER LANE AND WEST OF PAGHAM ROAD

Update Survey Note

October 2021

1. This briefing note has been prepared pursuant to a Reserved Matters application being submitted in relation to the development site known as Land South of Summer Lane and West of Pagham Road. In view of this Reserved Matters submission, Ecology Solutions was commissioned to undertake an update walkover survey of the Development Site in order to confirm that no material changes to the habitat conditions had occurred and that no additional impacts therefore arise. Further, Ecology Solutions was commissioned to undertake updated Badger surveys.
2. Update walkover surveys of the wider development site (which includes land subject to this Reserved Matters submission) were undertaken in late February 2021 and September 2021.
3. In addition, Ecology Solutions has undertaken specific update Badger surveys at the wider development site (which includes land subject to this Reserved Matters submission). These were undertaken in September 2019, and September 2021.
4. For both the Badger surveys and the update walkover surveys, the field margins were walked by an experienced ecologist. The updated Phase 1 walkover was targeted at documenting any material changes to the habitat baseline which may lead to a revisiting of the mitigation requirements previously identified. The Badger survey was focussed upon searching for signs of any use of the site by Badgers, including any setts (active / disused) push-throughs, runs, dung or foraging scrapes.
5. The walkover surveys identified that the habitat baseline remains comparable to that previously documented and assessed at the time of the Outline planning application. Land under arable cultivation / management dominates the site, with narrow field margins present which support common and widespread species (including those typical of such habitats). It is noted that winter wheat was not planted at the development site in the winters of 2019 / 2020 and 2020/2021. This however makes no material difference to the original

assessment conclusions, since, as reported by the Sussex Ornithological Society in its letter dated 4th July 2021, Brent Geese continue to use the development site when conditions are suitable (e.g. feeding on arable weeds in early 2021). Mitigation / compensation remains as proposed in respect of Brent Geese.

6. The condition of the treelines / hedgerows and ditches at the site are also comparable to the previously documented baseline and no significant ecological changes were recorded.
7. It should be noted that no evidence for the presence of Water Voles was recorded in relation to the ditches present within / at the boundary of the site.
8. No evidence for the presence of Badgers was recorded during any of the survey work undertaken.
9. In conclusion, the ecological value of the wider development site (which includes land subject to this Reserved Matters submission) is comparable to that previously documented. No additional implications for habitats or faunal species have been identified and no additional mitigation is considered necessary.

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