From:	Johnston, Christopher
To:	Planning (SMDC)
Subject:	FW: Application SMD/2016/0806 - 25.1.17
Date:	25 January 2017 17:28:02

Please put on r drive and web. Ecology consultation repsonse

From: Preece, Mark
Sent: 25 January 2017 10:57
To: Johnston, Christopher
Subject: Application SMD/2016/0806 - 25.1.17

Chris,

Please find attached ecology comments in relation to :

Application SMD/ 2016/ 0806. Heath House Farm, Ross Road, Whiston, Staffordshire, ST10 2JF - New Vehicular Access

An ecological appraisal of the land affected by the porosed new access was carried out in May 2016 by Clwydian Ecology. The site was found to consist of species poor improved grassland of relatively low ecological value. Impacts from the proposed access were assessed as being low.
The following impacts on protected or prioority species are possible:

Hedgehogs
Hedgehogs have been recorded in the area and they are a UK BAP Priority Species. The proposals will involve some excavation and groundworks although some works have already started.

Nesting birds
All breeding birds are protected under Section 1(1) and 1(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. This makes it an offence to damage, disturb, or obstruct access to nests during the bird breeding season (generally March to August). Birds will use the hedges/trees etc so any planned removal for access or otherwise will have to be undertaken between October and February inclusive (to avoid the nesting season).

The following consditions are suggested:

1. Any trenches/footings etc should either be covered or a ramp (plank of wood) installed to enable hedgehogs or amphibians can escape.

2. No removal of vegetation shall take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive unless a careful detailed check of vegetation for active birds' nests immediately before vegetation clearance and provided written confirmation that no birds will be harmed and /or that there are appropriate measures in place to protect nesting birds on site.

Regards

Mark

Mark Preece
Client Officer (Countryside and Parks)
Operational Services
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
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Mobile: 07872419113

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