Date: 08 November 2018
Our ref: 261749
Your ref: SMD/2018/0638

planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

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F.A.O. Ben Hurst

Dear Ben

Planning consultation: Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of the land as a paintball centre and associated buildings comprising a shelter, shop/bar, a toilet block, two storage containers and a timber 'fort
Location: Broadoak Farm Leek Road Kingsley Moor

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 October 2018 which was received by Natural England on 08 November 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Insufficient information provided

There is insufficient information to enable Natural England to provide a substantive response to this consultation as required under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Please provide the information listed below and re-consult Natural England. Please note that you are required to provide a further 21 day consultation period, once this information is received by Natural England, for us to respond.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
No assessment has been provided of the potential impacts the proposal will have on the Churnet Valley SSSI, this SSSI, lying to the north of Cheadle, includes the steep-sided main valley of the River Churnet and a number of tributary valleys. These valleys retain the largest remaining concentration of semi-natural ancient woodland in Staffordshire, intermixed with scrub, unimproved neutral and acidic grassland and large areas of mire, marsh and carr. The main woodland types vary from Alder woods in the valley bottoms and flushes, through Ash woods on the base rich soils, to a mixture of Sessile oak, Pedunculate oak and Silver birch woodland on the drier soils. The last two types form the major component of the woodland.

The unimproved grasslands which invariably have a very high botanical diversity, range from neutral to acidic, with examples of dry, flushed and waterlogged communities. Many of the grasslands show transition between types and grade through either scrub or fen carr to true woodland. The varied age structure and extensive area of woodland supports a rich diversity of breeding birds - over 50

species. Identification of invertebrate species in one area of woodland has shown that these woods are especially rich in species which are dependent on a continuous presence of dead wood and over-mature trees.

We advise you to obtain the following information in order to assess potential impacts of the proposal on this designated site:

- *Clarification of whether areas within the SSSI are used for the activity*
- *Detail of any measures to protect the SSSI interest features and*
- *A strategy to mitigate any remaining impacts.*

Please note that we are not seeking further information on other aspects of the natural environment, although we may make comments on other issues in our final response.

On receipt of the information requested, we will aim to provide a full response within 21 days of receipt. Please be aware that if the information requested is not supplied, Natural England may need to consider objecting to the proposal on the basis of potential harm to the above designated site.

Should the developer wish to explore options for avoiding or mitigating effects on the natural environment with Natural England, we recommend that they use our Discretionary Advice Service.

Please send further correspondence, marked for my attention, to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk quoting our reference 261749

Yours sincerely

Grady McLean
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West Midlands Team
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