

From: [Johnston, Christopher](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: FW: SMD/2021/0327 Sky Cottage - Formation of a pond
Date: 14 June 2021 11:39:29

From: Kate Dewey <k.dewey@staffs-wildlife.org.uk>
Sent: 11 June 2021 09:05
To: Johnston, Christopher <Christopher.Johnston@StaffsMoorlands.gov.uk>; Steve Massey <Steve.Massey@highpeak.gov.uk>
Subject: SMD/2021/0327 Sky Cottage - Formation of a pond

Ref number SMD/2021/0327

Application Location Sky Cottage, Top Road, Biddulph Moor, Staffordshire, ST8 7JR

Application description Formation of a pond

Site size hectares 0.24

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been asked to review the above application as part of a service level agreement with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to provide ecology advice regarding planning and development management functions.

SUMMARY – No objection subject to conditions.

Requirements:

1. A landscaping plan should be secured via condition, and show biodiversity enhancements to existing plans, with full planting proposals and habitat creation details.

Documents reviewed:

- Application Form
- Planning Statement
- Proposed Plans

HABITATS

The proposals for a new pond will likely provide a biodiversity net gain, particularly if it is implemented and managed sensitively for wildlife, as the area of grassland that will be lost appears to be mown and/or grazed and improved in nature. The pond has the potential to be a good quality habitat, providing native aquatic plants are used and a sensitive management scheme is proposed. Turf removed for the excavation of the pond should be retained and used as a pond lining, as this will speed up the growth of pond vegetation and provide some initial habitat for colonising species. Additional habitat could be created around the pond with locally sourced log piles and stones.

The introduction of a native hedgerow is welcomed and may provide a small biodiversity gain, although it would be preferred if a mix of native woody species were used rather than holly alone. This would create a much more diverse hedgerow and be of much higher value to wildlife and look much more natural within the local landscape. Species could include a mix of locally occurring species such as: blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and holly (*Illex aquifolium*). This would support a wider range of species of birds and insects due to the variety of flowers and fruit it would provide.

To further increase biodiversity, a native wildflower strip could be implemented alongside the new hedge and along the road verge where visibility splays are not an issue. This could complement the pond and provide better, linked up habitat patches.

The existing stone wall should be retained, as this too provides additional refuge and basking areas for wildlife and will be of higher value alongside a new hedgerow, pond, and wildflowers.

Regards,

Kate Dewey BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Senior Planning Officer

[Redacted]

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Planning consultations- please send to planning@staffs-wildlife.org.uk

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[Redacted]

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2 Attachments

[Redacted]

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