



Elite Ecology
Passionate about ecology

Ms. Kate Dewey

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Mr. Connor Wild

Elite Ecology,
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Date: 4th August 2023

Reference: Land off Oakamoor Road, Cheadle

Dear Kate Dewey,

This letter has been produced to inform yourselves in relation to the proposed re-development works on land at Oakamoor Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 4QR (OS Grid Reference: SK 01808 43745).

Amendments to scale and layout to avoid impacts: The section of Hales Hall Pool Local Nature Reserve (LNR) that fall on the land, which includes the following: species-rich hedgerows, marshy grassland and pond, is to be retained. The Client has amended plans to provide a minimum of a 5m buffer, which will be managed for ecological benefits and used as a wildlife corridor, between the development on site and the LNR to avoid impacts. A Construction and Ecological Management Plan should be conditioned to ensure no impacts occur during the construction phase of the development.

Biodiversity Net Gain: The site consists of; modified grassland, other neutral grassland, a pond and individual trees. During the development only the low distinctive modified grassland is to be affected by the development. The development will provide the inclusion of a new attenuation pond and individual trees. In addition to this an area has been identified as an "Ecological Enhancement Zone" which will be used to create additional habitats, and the portion of the LNR may be enhanced in condition. With the above it is plausible for the site to reach a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Surface Water drainage scheme: A sustainable drainage scheme has been devised. This will include the afore mentioned attenuation pond located to the southwest of the site. This pond will be made eco-friendly and planted with suitable submerged, emergent and marginal vegetation of native species to support local fauna whilst ensuring that flooding is prevented on site. In addition to this a vegetation corridor is to be included along the west boundary to connect the pond to the corridor along the north and LNR.

Bird Surveys: At the time of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, no site plans had been provided therefore total site clearance was assumed. The revised plan shows the retention of the existing hedgerows, trees, pond, marshy grassland and some of the improved grassland to the east. The vast majority of the improved grassland is to be lost which may have an impact on ground nesting birds. As suitable nesting habitat is to be retained, it is recommended that any tree removal is undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (March to August, inclusive). If these features are required to be altered during the bird breeding season, then a further inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist is required no more than twenty-four hours before this process commences. This is to ensure that no active nest site is illegally destroyed, due to the protection afforded to all active bird nests under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If an active nest is found by a site inspection, an exclusion zone around the nest will be necessary to preserve this feature until the chicks have fledged the nest.

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