Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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Planning Applications Manager
High Peak Borough Council
Planning Department
Municipal Buildings
Glossop
Derbyshire
SK13 8AF

For the attention of Rachael Simpkin

Your Ref: NMA/2020/0024
Our ref: DWTHPK169-4a

23rd May 2024

Dear Rachael,

Proposal: Non material amendment to HPK/2018/0161 to vary approved landscaping details in relation to the River Etherow buffer.

Location: Former, Bridge Mills, New Road, Tintwistle, Derbyshire, SK13 1JN

Application Ref No: NMA/2020/0024

With reference to the above application, I am responding as the Biodiversity Planning Officer responsible for work relating to the Service Level Agreement, which the High Peak Borough Council and the Trust have signed. The following comments are aimed at providing accurate and up to date information on the nature conservation issues associated with the proposed development.

Response

We note the constructed stairway to the ecological buffer zone, indicated on Drawing number: 472/P/PL/01 Rev. AE. We have also reviewed the updated Management Plan V2 (TEP, 05/01/24), which includes the gated stair.



We refer to our response dated 9th March 2021 (DWTHPK169-4), which recommends some simple amendments to the tree planting and grassland mix. These do not seem to have been incorporated:

"The current landscaping details appear reasonable and we welcome the native planting. We suggest that perhaps some of the silver birch or sycamore trees proposed on the river bank could be swapped for alder (Alnus glutinosa) but we imagine that the tree officer will provide a final comment on the proposed trees.

We also suggest that the grassed riverbank could be seeded with a mix that also contains wildflowers as well as grasses e.g. Emorsgate EM8 rather than EG8. However, we also encourage the retention of the existing bankside habitat where this is still in situ to minimise disturbance to the river corridor".

It is hoped that the information provided is helpful to the Council. If you require any further information or wish to discuss any of the comments made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Duggan-Jones MBiolSci MCIEEM
Biodiversity Planning Officer

Endnote:

Please see our planning pages https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/planning for ecological advice on submitting a planning application, finding an ecological consultant and information on mitigation and enhancement.