
From:
Sent: 02 June 2025 10:10
To: Planning (SMDC)
Subject: RE: Internal Consultation Letter - App ref SMD/2025/0247

Categories:

To whom it may concern,

Please find my high-level comments on the application below:

- Regarding hedgerow transplanting - a condition should be included to replace those that die as a result of this.
- The metric is provided as a PDF. The Wildlife Trust will require a copy of the excel spreadsheet to review this. Furthermore, they should check if the latest version of the metric has been used.
- The habitat survey for the main BESS field was undertaken in June 2023 which is a while ago - but it is unlikely the results will have changed much since then.
- The cable route habitat survey was undertaken in December 2024 - this is not in ideal time of year to undertake ecological surveys: as a result, species may have been missed, which could potentially result in the grassland being under-classified in terms of quality and diversity. An updated spring/summer survey should be undertaken for this parcel.
- Proposals to create Other Neutral Grassland within the sites - details on management have not been specified. The BNG statement mentions seeding - will any other management and maintenance be required such as mowing? Suspect this will factor into the HMMP - possibly an informative condition to be included which requires this.
- The off-site BNG area is located within two parcels of woodland. Consideration should be given as to enhancing this to woodland to connect up the two parcels. Or, further reasoning provided as to why Other Neutral Grassland has been chosen as the preferred habitat for creation. (Note, although the LNRS is not published yet, mapping from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust via the NetGainStaffs portal, indicates the location is identified as an opportunity for woodland creation).
- A s106 agreement will need to be set up with the landowner to secure the off-site gains.

The Wildlife Trust will review the metric and proposals in more detail as our consultee under the SLA, but I trust the above was useful to you.

Kind regards,

Biodiversity Officer
Communities, Culture and Climate Change
High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
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www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk | Follow SMDC on X (Formerly Twitter) | Facebook

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