
From: Jeremy Davy
Sent: 15/09/2010 13:20:51
To: Hazel Evans
Subject: RE: 10/01695/COMIND AWE Aldermaston

Dear Hazel,

The only un-resolved aspect of my e-mail is item 3 - the landscape impact on Aldermaston Court (which it would be good to have professional input). The landscape impact is mainly mitigated by coniferous trees which are out of keeping with the historic park. I would suggest that in the long term it would be good if a double row of English Oak was planted within the park immediately to the NW of the conifers. In the medium/long term these will be in a position to take over from the conifers which can be removed if they haven't died in the mean time.

Regards

Jeremy

Jeremy Davy - Principal Ecologist, West Berkshire Council

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2010 International Year of Biodiversity

From: Jeremy Davy
Sent: 02 August 2010 16:13
To: Hazel Evans
Subject: 10/01695/COMIND AWE Aldermaston

Dear Hazel,

I have looked at the documents supplied and have the following comments in no particular order.

1. The Great Crested Newt (GCN) Method statement is dated July 2009 and shows a time line for works beginning last year. Assuming that works have not been undertaken prior to planning permission, this time line needs to be updated to reflect the new timings for works.
2. There is mention that the route of the GCN fence will be moved prior to Phase 2 to allow construction of the detention pond. However, it is unclear as to where the new route is to be. Please can this be clarified.
3. I am pleased to note that our landscape and listed building advisors were consulted in meetings prior to the application being submitted. I think it is important that they are consulted now the application is in to ensure that their comments have been accurately incorporated. The views from Aldermaston Court seem to be restricted by conifers on the boundary, but how will these be maintained? Should they be maintained? Given the effect of this development on the Historic Park, should AWE be requested to contribute to enhancement measures in the historic park? Are these needed? Questions for our Landscape Architect I think?

4. Renewable Energy - I would be interested to know where AWE think they are in their target of generating 10% of their energy demand on site by 2010? This application does show that the subject is at least being considered now and I am pleased to see that 25% of the heating demand for the support building (2.5% for the development as a whole) will come from air source heat pumps. I am also pleased to see sun pipes used to reduce the need for lighting use and the incorporation of other sustainability measures.
5. Green roof on support building - I am pleased to see the use of this technology on the support building. All I would request is that 2 groups of 3 boulders (approximately 30cm square) are placed on the roofs to create nesting sites for birds such as Black Redstart.
6. Bats and Lighting - Para 13.5.2.3. of the Environmental Appraisal states that the lighting scheme has been designed to measures set out in "Bats and lighting in the UK" which is good. Can it be confirmed that the reason that in the Lighting Layout Revised 2 included as Annex 7 of the Planning Supporting Statement when mention is made of turning lights off when the site is vacated at the end of the working day this because the level of light needed for construction is higher than during operation. By my reading the access roads will be lit to 50 lux during construction, but only 20 lux during operation - is this right? Is drawing 2.3.3 3D luminance, view 1 a night time illustration of the development in operation or construction? It is possible to supply which ever is missing?
7. The Emorsgate mix EM4 for the acid grassland/heathland areas does not include heathers. I would therefore recommend that mention is made of collecting heather seed from on site to add to this seed mix.
8. I welcome the various grassland management regimes put forward which will assist with enhancing on site biodiversity.

I look forward to hearing AWEs response where required. Subject to satisfactory responses, at this time I do not consider that I will be likely to object or require conditions.

Regards

Jeremy

Jeremy Davy - Principal Ecologist, West Berkshire Council

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