



Natural Environment Team

To: Planning Services
Name: Charles Colling
Ref: FUL/2023/0019

Date: 14/07/2023

Title: Besthorpe: Newall Plant Limited, Heron Farm, Bunwell Road, Besthorpe, NR17 2LN: Proposed Aggregate and Soil Recovery Facility (Part Retrospective): Newall Plant Limited

Summary

Arboriculture – no objection.

Ecology – no objection subject to conditions.

Choose an item.

Arboriculture

Thank you for consulting me on this application. I'm satisfied that all trees in the area are on the opposite side of the bund, and therefore there will be no impact to them.

Gavin Robbie, Acting on behalf of Norfolk County Council

STATUS

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Green

Ecology

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above application.

Protected Species:

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (version 4, dated March 2023) has been submitted; whilst the application site has not been visited by an ecologist since June 2020, I am satisfied that the habitats present have not changed significantly.

I am satisfied that the adjacent pond does not support great crested newts, following completion of an eDNA survey in 2020; given the location and surrounding land use of the pond, it is considered unlikely that newts would have moved into the pond during the intervening period.

It is noted in section 3.3 of the PEA that an ash tree and hedgerow are proposed for removal along the northern site boundary (presumably to facilitate the installation of the earth bund).

Noting that the creation of the bunds and associated landscaping have been approved by Breckland District Council (planning ref. 3PL/2022/0333/F) it is assumed that any such vegetation clearance works have now been completed.

However, where any additional vegetation clearance is proposed, it is important that no removal of vegetation should take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive, unless the site has first been surveyed by a competent ecologist and it is evidenced that no nesting birds are present, noting it is an offence to remove, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while the nest is in use or being built, as set out under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Landscaping:

Landscaping details as set out in the Landscape Proposals Drawing No. 2021-417-004 Rev D appear acceptable regarding use of native species selections. It is advised that all planting occurs during the first planting season following determination of the application.

However, no further details including maintenance proposals appear to have been submitted.

External Lighting:

It is noted that no lighting is proposed as part of this application (as stated in section 6.9 of the Planning Statement) with existing lighting approximately indicated in the submitted Lighting Plan Ref X001.

Recommendation:

I would have no objection to the proposal, provided a suitable condition (or informative) is imposed in relation to nesting birds.

However, it is advised that further details regarding landscape maintenance, including securing of all planting during the first season following determination, is provided either prior to determination or secured by condition.

James Fisher, Principal Ecologist (Delivery)

STATUS

Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Green
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Landscape

LANDSCAPE COMMENTS TO FOLLOW

Emily Smith, Principal Landscape Architect

STATUS

Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
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