

Planning Application Response

Ecology

To: Mary Hudson, Principal Planning Officer, Oxfordshire County Council

From: Tamsin Atley, Ecology Officer (Casual), Oxfordshire County Council

Site: Land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Detail: Extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation areas, using inert fill.

Notice of Submission of Further Information in relation to Application for Planning Permission Accompanied by an Environmental Statement (Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as Amended)

Reference: MW.0115/21

Date sent: 17/05/2022

Comments – Request for clarification

Thank you for consulting me on the further information received in March 2022 in relation to this application.

Before I complete my response, please can you ask the applicant for clarification regarding the Biodiversity Metric calculations. Under the Trading Rules where a High Distinctiveness Habitat is lost it would need to be replaced with the same habitat on site (or elsewhere, such as within the Conservation Target Area, if onsite is not possible). Grassland – Floodplain Wetland Mosaic (CFGW) is a High Distinctiveness habitat and the Trading Summary in the Biodiversity Metric shows a net loss of this habitat. However, the Ecological Appraisal (Windrush Ecology, August 2021) does not flag up this issue. Please can you ask the applicant to clarify whether there would be a net loss of this High Distinctiveness habitat? If so, why is this and what options has the applicant considered in order to replace this habitat?