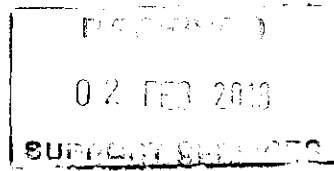


Mike Stranks
Development Control
Rochford District Council
Council Offices
South Street
Rochford
Essex
SS4 1BW

18th August 2016



Abbotts Hall Farm
Great Wigborough
Colchester
Essex CO5 7RZ
Tel: 01621 862986
Fax: 01621 862990

eecos@essexwt.org.uk
www.eecos.co.uk

Dear Mike

Re. 16/00409/FUL, land between the Athenaeum Health Club and Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford

I have been asked by Charter Projects to contact you with regard our involvement with this development and specifically our forthcoming survey work. My understanding is that surveys for reptiles and Badgers are outstanding and that you require information about the form of these surveys and the likely implications of positive results from either. The conclusions drawn hereafter are based upon the information provided in the Ecological Assessment report prepared by Adonis Ecology.

Reptiles

EECOS has initiated a survey of reptiles on the application site, following the industry standard methodology of placing artificial refuges (roofing felt mats) around the site and then checking them on a number of occasions under favourable weather conditions. Seven visits will be made, which is the number suggested as the minimum effort required to be confident in a negative result. Mats will be placed in the next week and survey visits are expected to commence in early September, when weather conditions are likely to be more suitable.

Our knowledge of the surrounding landscape and the habitats present within the application site suggest that reptiles are likely to be present, with Common Lizard and Slow Worm most likely.

As it is understood that the majority of the application site will be affected by the proposals, if reptiles are present, the mitigation required is likely to involve a translocation exercise to relocate the population to nearby, suitable and secure habitat. A receptor site would be identified that provides suitable habitat in a location that is secure from foreseeable future disturbance and a programme of capture and habitat manipulation would be developed to ensure the safe movement of reptiles, appropriate to the species present and their estimated abundance.

Badgers

A possible Badger sett was identified by Adonis Ecology, with the possibility of other activity within dense Bramble scrub. During the course of the reptile survey, it is EECOS's intention to determine whether or not Badgers are present on the site and the type of sett present if they are.

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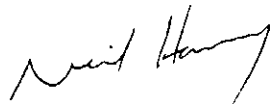
Professional ecological services applying local knowledge and experience

Our investigations will involve inspections of the holes and any other evidence of activity that can be found and, if necessary, deployment of camera traps.

Given the level of activity suggested in the Adonis Ecology report, if Badgers are present, it is only likely that outlier holes are involved. If this is the case, and given the loss of the majority of the site to the development, it is likely that a licence would be sought to close the sett.

I hope this provides the information that you require, but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Harvey', written in a cursive style.

Neil Harvey MCIEEM
Consultancy Manager