Subject:

FW: Natural England Response - 374477 - 155-Hectare Highways Proposal - R3.0138/21 - A4130 Dualling

From: Behnke, Piotr
Sent: 21 January 2022 16:44
To: Planning - E&E <planning@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Catcheside, Emily - Oxfordshire County Council <Emily.Catcheside@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Natural England Response - 374477 - 155-Hectare Highways Proposal - R3.0138/21 - A4130 Dualling

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FAO: Emily Catcheside,

Dear Emily,

Many thanks for consulting Natural England regarding the above scheme for the dualling of the A4130 carriageway between the A34 Milton Interchange and the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden.

The closest designated site to the proposals would be the Little Wittenham SAC & SSSI, which is ~3.1km to the south east of the northern end of the works at Clifton Hampden.

Given the designation at this site is for Great Crested Newts and having checked this internally there is unlikely to be any fragmentation caused by the proposed works to the roads in this application so impacts can be ruled out.

It is welcomed, within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment under Section 4 "Conclusions and Recommendations", that there has been an assessment made using the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 and that there is a full understanding and commitment made to ensuring a minimum 10% gain.

The variety of recommendations made within the above document with regard to in particular the linear (river) habitat units would be welcomed in order to ensure that 10% is reached for that particular metric as this is rightly identified as lacking currently.

Given the number of crossings this route includes, whether they be over fields, rivers or near ponds, there is plenty of further opportunity to action enhancements that would bring the required additional improvements for that maximum net gain target to be reached and hopefully exceeded.

The route itself is outside the North Wessex Downs AONB however is just 1.8km outside so the input of the AONB board should certainly be sought as they will have the best understanding of the local area and whether any particular issues would need addressing locally.

The usual use of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the various elements of the proposed works would ensure that standard considerations are put in place for works both before, during and after construction.

We would of course be happy to comment further on the specifics of the project under our Discretionary Advice Service should the applicants wish to request that or later on under formal consultation.

I trust that this satisfies your requirements however do get in touch if you need anything further.

Regards,

Piotr Behnke Lead Adviser Planning and UAS Thames Solent Team

From: Planning - E&E <<u>planning@Oxfordshire.gov.uk</u>> Sent: 11 November 2021 09:15 To: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) < Subject: Oxfordshire County Council Planning Reference R3.0138/21

Please see the attached document.

For further information please contact the Planning Officer, Emily Catcheside at Emily.Catcheside@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Kind Regards Noor

Noorjahan Shaikh Planning Process Officer

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