

Development Management

Subject: FW: LCC/2024/0002 - Darkinson Lane Temporary Accesses
Attachments: 80061057-02-EMG-MISCE-99-DR-04-00027 - Hedgerow Reinstatement Plan.pdf

From: Eyres, Katie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Ashworth, Helen <[REDACTED]>
Subject: LCC/2024/0002 - Darkinson Lane Temporary Accesses

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Good afternoon Helen,

I am writing to respond to LCC's ecologist's consultation on the above application.

Natural England District Level Licence

An application to amend DLL Approval (Ref. 2023-00552-EPS-DLL) is under progression, but has not yet been formally accepted by NE as it is pending payment by United Utilities. Formal confirmation of the amended approval will be submitted to LCC as soon as it is received.

Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

A formal Hedgerow Regulations Assessment has not been undertaken as a stand-alone document, as criteria required for assessment against the Hedgerow Regulations is considered across the PEA and AIA reports. Extents of hedgerow loss are detailed in the hedgerow removal drawings and reinstatement proposals in the landscaping reinstatement proposals plans.

As stated in the planning application, the hedgerow removal has been subject to a separate Hedgerow Removal Notice (Ref: 06/2023/1367). Further detail, if required, can be found in the supporting documentation for this application. The HRN was approved on 18/01/2024 with the following reasoning:

The hedgerows proposed to be removed are considered important as they are part of a historic field system. The reason for removal is however justified by the utilities operators need to lay a new wastewater pipeline, and the hedgerows are proposed to be reinstated upon completion of the works. Therefore, there would be no significant harm to the important hedgerows as indicated on the plans, and thus the removal is acceptable in accordance with The Hedgerow Regulations (1997).

With respect to BNG, pre-consultation between UU Ecologist and LCC Ecologist was undertaken prior to submission. In line with this, it is noted that the planning application was submitted prior to the introduction of mandatory BNG, therefore it is understood that BNG metrics are not required. As part of the Hedgerow Removal Notice application, the Local Authority confirmed that adequate provisions have been made to replace the hedgerows. A copy of the hedgerow reinstatement plan that was approved under this application is attached for information.

I trust this information is acceptable and I will respond in due course to provide the required information under the DLL in order to allow the planning application to progress to decision.

Thanks,
Katie



Katie Eyres
Environmental Planner
Planning, Landscape and Ecology
Asset Management
M: 07342 076660
unitedutilities.com

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