

**From:** Chidswell Actiongroup

**Sent:** 19 June 2022 12:22

**To:** Victor Grayson

**Subject:** Further evidence of unrecorded protected species on Chidswell & Heybeck

Dear Victor,

**Ref: Land east of Leeds Rd, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury / Land south of Heybeck Lane, Chidswell, Shawcross, Dewsbury 2020/60/92331/E / 2020/60/92350/E**

We write to follow up on 3 emails, dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, as we still await your reply. We also note these communications have not been uploaded onto the Planning Portal.

We would ask again: will the out-of-date wildlife surveys be updated for all species so our evidence of Schedule 1 species, not recorded by the Ecologists, be included? These additional species are important as they impact other parts of the EIA which would also need to be revised.

As previously advised, our video, photographic and audio evidence has been submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology, iNaturalist and the BTO Acoustic Pipeline.

In addition to our evidence of **significant bat activity, Schedule 1 Kingfisher & Schedule 1 Barn Owl**, we have evidence of further species to make you aware of:

### **Hazel Dormouse**

We have numerous cautionary audio IDs on Hazel Dormouse in Dum Wood (BTO Acoustic Pipeline). Hazel Dormouse is a species of principal importance for conservation of biodiversity listed under section 41 of the NERC. Section 40 of the Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on all Public Bodies to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity including giving consideration to the restoration of species and habitats.

Activities that can harm Hazel Dormice are:

- Disturbance, eg. noise and light, woodland & hedgerow management.
- Habitat removal, clearing woodland and removing hedgerows
- Habitat fragmentation and isolation.

All of the above harmful activities are unavoidable with the planned development at Chidswell and Heybeck so it's crucial that further surveys are undertaken to investigate the possible presence of this highly protected species.

### **Red Kite**

Another species where we have extensive evidence is the Schedule 1 Red Kite. It patrols the site on most days between 12 – 3pm. We have numerous GPS logged photos and videos for this species on site. This species is not recorded on the out-of-date ornithological surveys. Our evidence needs to be added to the Ornithological Survey report.

### **Roe Deer**

We have also recorded at least 3 Roe Deer in Dum Wood (3 together on the same video). These are not included in the wildlife surveys. Again, submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology and iNaturalist and need to be included in the EIA.

These missing species, some with the highest protection, highlight the need for updated surveys on all species. Heybeck, in particular, is missing crucial evidence on biodiversity. Also, the flaws with the BNG metrics (raised by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) have not been addressed. With the adjustments the development delivers a Biodiversity Net Loss of over 14%. The latest Ecological Design Strategy document does not address this, nor does it reference the large breeding assemblages of Yellow Hammer and Skylark to be permanently displaced at District Level Importance.

Please could you reply as a matter of urgency on the missing species and how you ensure their inclusion and consideration in the planning process.

May we also chase up for information on the ALC Soil Classification requested by Natural England.

Regards,

Chidswell Action Group