

From: Ethan Giles
Sent: 23 September 2024 09:56
To: Jones, Ollie <Ollie.Jones@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: 233282 - Land adj. Orchard Farm Comberton Orleton Herefordshire

Dear Ollie,

I hope this email finds you well.

By means of an update, I can confirm that both an arboricultural consultant and a drainage expert have been appointed to provide the necessary information needed to address the council's queries.

Firstly, the arboriculturist has provided the attached letter, detailing their expert advice in regards to the existing hedgerow. They set out that the proposed works i.e., the creation of a new access and necessary visibility splays, would not involve severe or total removal that could compromise hedge integrity.

In addition to the proposed hedge planting any foreseen impacts should be sufficiently mitigated. Please refer to the previously provided PEA and BNGA which resulted in no evidence of protected species and onsite mitigation to achieve a +10% net gain in both habitat and hedgerow units. It should be noted that final details of such can be addressed via a suitable landscaping condition in line with Circular 11/95.

Upon further consultation with our own landscape expert, a few queries have been raised. The matter raised by the council regarding the hedge appear to be underpinned by the landscape officers comment dated the 11/02/2024 and their notion that the site forms a 'valued landscape'. In terms of Herefordshire's policy surrounding/justifying this, there is a Landscape Character Assessment 2023. The full assessment can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/6640/landscape-character-assessment-2023>. The specific landscape character assessment referring to Lowland Farmlands is identified within LCT 2 which has been attached for reference.

At no point within the assessment is a traditional orchard referred to as a valued landscape. Therefore, I would request for further justification that the site has been assessed as a valued landscape rather than just a landscape type.

Secondly, I can confirm that the necessary drainage information is due to be provided within the next two weeks. As soon as I am in receipt of such this will be passed on.

At this moment in time, if you have any further questions, please let me know.

Kind Regards, Ethan

Ethan Giles

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