

AGENDA ITEM 9: SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Item. 9a: pages 32-39

Location: OLD BUCKENHAM: Anglian Water Drilling Unit Site, Abbey Road

Proposal: Erection of a 24.46m high radar tower and associated comms cabin (portakabin).

REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0091/F

Applicant: c/o Hickman and Smith Architects

Author: Tom Donnelly

CONSULTATIONS

Ecologist

The ecologists carried out a site visit in April 2019 as part of a wider survey relating to an Anglian Water borehole project and WFE re-surveyed the site in December 2020. The site visit to assess the value of the site for roosting, commuting and foraging bats could be undertaken at any time of the year. No targeted bat activity surveys were undertaken and therefore there are no timing restrictions. The ecologist did not recommend further targeted bat activity surveys and they have justified why further surveys are not required including the site contains no potential bat roosting features, the local arable landscape is not a particularly valuable foraging resource 2 and there are multiple alternative boundaries around the site which can also be used for foraging purposes. We are satisfied with the timing of the site visits and that this would give an accurate representation of the roosting/foraging capabilities of the site. The additional information provided by Wild Frontier Ecology dated March 2021 provides additional information which highlights the low value of the local arable landscape for barbastelles and that the area is not a particularly valuable foraging resource, and has no significant attractions for foraging bats when compared to arable countryside anywhere in East Anglia.

RECCOMENDATION

Following the submission of additional information by the agent in respect of the impact on Barbastelle bats, the County Ecologists have considered this information and confirmed that they have no concerns or objections to the proposal in terms of the impact on the site due to the poor suitability of the area for roosting or foraging.

The officer recommendation therefore remains as one of approval and no additional conditions are proposed.