

Date: 29 July 2024
Our ref: 483346
Your ref: W/23/02112/OUT



Gillian McDermott
Wychavon District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
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Dear Gillian

Planning consultation: Planning application for the demolition of existing farmhouse, agricultural buildings and structures, the erection of a phased development of up to 300 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated public open space, drainage, infrastructure and engineering works with all matters reserved except access.

Location: Orchard Farm, Defford Road, Pershore, WR10 3BX

Thank you for your consultation on the shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment for this proposed housing development, which was received by Natural England on 09 July 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England notes that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has not been produced by your authority, but by the applicant. As competent authority, it is your responsibility to produce the HRA and be accountable for its conclusions. We provide the advice enclosed on the assumption that your authority intends to adopt this HRA to fulfil your duty as competent authority. You have confirmed to us that this is your position.

The appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question – i.e. the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation / Ramsar site. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any planning permission given.

For the avoidance of doubt, the other aspects of our response reference 480518 remain.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again. Please send any correspondence, marked for my attention, to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk quoting our reference 483346 .

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming
Senior officer – sustainable development
West Midlands area team