

From:
To:
Subject: FW: HPK/2024/0255 Land at Park Road
Date: 30 January 2025 10:15:54

Please find below latest comments from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in connection with HPK/2024/0255

James Stannard Planning Officer
Development Services
High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
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Please note that my working days are Monday-Thursday

From: Libby Duggan-Jones
Sent: 30 January 2025 09:42
To: James Stannard
Cc: Kieron Huston
Subject: RE: HPK/2024/0255 Land at Park Road

Morning James,

I've had a look through the response from the ecologist and discussed the site with Kieron. The key consideration with this application is whether or not the change of use to a dog exercise field will result / has resulted in the loss of habitat for ground nesting birds. This could be directly in the field itself or through disturbance to adjacent fields.

We agree that the site in its current state i.e. being maintained as short grassland and used by dogs and their owners, is not suitable for ground nesting birds, however our intention when assessing retrospective applications is to determine the likely impacts that have been caused or will be caused by the changes. This is difficult to do in retrospective cases because the changes have already occurred without a proper level of survey, which would have been required if the application was submitted prior to change of use.

We have therefore looked at the baseline of evidence available, as set out in our letter. This includes local records/data, public comments and consideration of the habitats in adjacent fields. These all suggest that ground nesting birds could use adjacent fields and may have used the application area, prior to the changes.

As such, we advised that a decision shouldn't be made until some level of bird survey was undertaken to provide robust evidence. Ideally, this would include cessation of operation of the exercise field to allow the vegetation to regrow and disturbance factors to be removed. Then breeding bird surveys of the application area and adjacent fields should be carried out in spring/early summer to see if nesting birds are recorded. If for some reason this is not possible, the second option would be to survey only the adjacent fields. This could be done from vantage points on the road and within the application area, if there are access constraints.

Without survey evidence, it is difficult for us to advise whether the application will result in adverse impacts to notable species and losses of biodiversity.

Best regards,
Libby.

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