

FW: A0001032 farm - HRA and EPS

To:, NRW

From:, Welsh Government

30.03.2015

Hi

Thanks for the feedback on the method statement. I've attached the surveyor's report's which include his experience and qualifications which I have also sent to – see email below. I thought this area was in her patch and she would be dealing with the EPS licence applications but let me know if you will be reviewing them.

A felling licence will be required and we will apply for this once we have EPS licences in place.

HRA, I'm still waiting for confirmation from the landowner that he is happy to progress on the specification in the method statement, can I assume you now have all you require for the HRA should he wish to progress.

Regards

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Mon 23/03/2015 12:11

Hi

Thanks for the method statement. I note that a suitably qualified person has now assessed the EPS interest in the wood. Is it possible to see the original surveyor's report just to see the evidence that the conclusions are based on? I.e. what habitat features and field signs were noted to enable these conclusions to be reached.

Otter: Assuming that the conclusions are accurate, the buffer zones marked on the plans and as you say the limited duration and extent of the works should be sufficient to avoid harmful levels of disturbance. I'll reserve final judgement on this until I have sight of the evidence in the surveyor's report (or if there was no specific evidence but it was a judgement based on habitat suitability alone this should be described in a reasonable amount of detail - it would also be helpful to see a

statement of the surveyor's experience and credentials in this regard, which usually accompanies an assessment).

Dormouse: This discovery is quite significant as I think this is the first ever record of dormouse for that particular 10km square based on data in our GIS (though there are records from c.4km away north of the river). It's not a complete surprise but quite a significant expansion to the known range - again it would be helpful to have a note of the evidence. The surveyor has recommended a EPS licence is necessary for dormouse and has recommended some timing restrictions. The licence application process should be commenced in good time to allow a licence to be issued as works cannot commence until this has happened. Is there also a felling licence required?

Regards

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