

Wendy Strangeway

From: Elspeth Ingleby
Sent: 22 November 2018 14:45
To: Jill Bastow
Cc: Planning
Subject: NYM/2018/0275/FL - land south east of Thirley Beck, Harwood Dale

Dear Jill,

This application is an interesting one. In principle, the creation of a pond in this area would be very beneficial to a wide variety of species, including water vole which are a Priority species and have previously been recorded in the area. I think the inclusion of an island would also be beneficial (with willow on or without). I am however concerned that the submitted plan is significantly in excess of the plan advised by the RSPB officer who assessed the site in 2017.

Within the Recommendations of the report, it is stated; "The size of the pond is yet to be determined but there is sufficient area to accommodate a pond of 20m diameter without impacting on the important fen at the eastern end of the site." Whilst I appreciate this is not definitive, the implication is clear that a pond larger than 20m diameter could impact on the important fen community. In addition the drawn on extension (in black) to the advised location (in blue on the report) extends south east of the originally marked area and thus would almost certainly cause much of the 'important fen' to be removed.

The report recommends shallow edges and a variable depth, which is limited on the supplied plan, and it is unclear why a depth of 4m is required when a "depth in excess of 1.5m" is all that was required. This depth would require an enormous amount of spoil to be extracted (and removed from the site). It could also potentially have a draw down effect on surrounding land if the soil is not appropriate to hold this depth of water. The plan provided is a little confusing – if it is intended to show that 4m of depth is required to give a 2m deep pond with 2m of banking then this should be more clearly identified. It would also be beneficial for the plan to show how shallow edges just below the intended water line are to be incorporated into the pond design.

In conclusion, I would happily support the creation of a pond to the spec provided by Chris Tomson in his report, however as the submitted plans go beyond that I believe that further information is required to assess and consider the ecological impact of the proposals. For the scheme to be acceptable, it would also be necessary for all extracted spoil to be removed from the site, and that the pond/lake is not to be stocked with fish, both of which could be secured by condition.

Please let me know if you need any further clarification. I hope these issues can be resolved as a pond of some kind in this area should be an asset to the local wildlife.

Best wishes,

Elspeth

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Please note: I work 2 days per week on Ecology matters. My normal working pattern is Monday and Thursday.