

From: David Dutton

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:41 AM

To: Clapworthy, Dean <D.Clapworthy@bury.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning application 70071 Site of Radcliffe Leisure Centre - condition 25 & 26

Hi Dean

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

Condition 25 – Reasonable avoidance Measures Method Statement

An ecological clerk of works will be overseeing site clearance.

The main risk on this site is likely to be non-protected amphibians from the nearby Radcliffe Wetland SBI (ponds within 50m of the site not within 400m as noted in the statement) within the extensive overgrown former school playing fields. Whilst satisfied that all other risks to mammals and amphibians are adequately covered, given the extent of this area of grassland and closeness of the ponds, specific reference to how the grassland will be cleared to minimise the risk to species such as common toad should be included within the method statement. Currently all that is noted is the ecologist will discuss the extent of works and site clearance and references to timing none of which I object to.

I therefore do not recommend full discharge of this condition until a detailed method statement for the clearance of the areas of long grass on the former playing fields is provided.

Condition 26 – Invasive Species

An exclusion areas is proposed adjacent to areas of himalayan balsams, whilst the areas are treated through a combination of manual cutting, herbicide treatment and disposal to landfill. The works will occur under the supervision of the ecological clerk of works. They also note checking for seed, which I am not sure is realistic as whilst accepting that himalayan balsam seed are relatively large for a seed, I would not regard searching for seed as an effective methodology.

Whilst this method statement is a bit broad brush, given the balsam is off-site, I am satisfied that it is reasonable with regards the level of risk. *I therefore have no objection to the discharge of condition 26.*

David Dutton

Ecologist

Planning

Investment, Development and Housing

Place