

Hi David,

I've reviewed this application and the included PEA. The PEA recommended that further bat surveys should be done in order to inform mitigation requirements:

*"Further precautionary single season bat surveys are therefore recommended to include both a remote activity survey along the eastern boundary railway corridor and also a single season manual activity survey throughout the site to record any pertinent bat activity on site. The results of these further surveys will inform the requirement for any lighting design mitigation required"*

I can't find reports for these on the portal, do you know if these surveys have been done?

In addition, I have a concern about the fox den found adjacent to the railway line corridor (target note 7 in the PEA). As the report explains, foxes sometimes use badger setts when they are not in use by badgers. From reading the report, and looking at the surrounding landscape as well as the proposal plan, I can't confidently rule out the presence of badgers within the site or assess the impact that the proposal may have on badgers. The PEA recommends that the location is monitored for badger activity during construction:

*"The location of this potential sett structure could possibly constrain the development process and hence further observation of this structure, with the view to potentially obtaining a licence to close it, if not temporarily, during the construction process, if it shows indications of usage by badgers."*

However, as there are many records of badger in the area, the surrounding landscape appears suitable for badger, and there is a question as to whether the fox den could also be used as a sett by badger, a further badger survey will be required to monitor this location and ensure it is not being used by badger before I can provide conditions.

Once I have the results of the additional bat surveys and badger surveys, I will be able to provide conditions for this application.

Kind regards,

**Megan Belanger**

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