

Chris Harrison
Principal Planning Officer | Development Management
Cumberland Council
The Market Hall
Market Place
Whitehaven
CA28 7JG

Dear Chris

We have had an update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by our external consultant PBA.

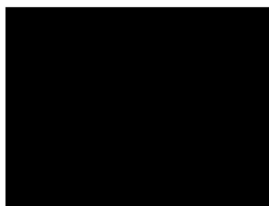
Please see attached. His comments to us alongside this confirm there is overall very little change:

"The recommendations from the Ecological Assessment contained similar recommendations, the only difference is they recommended a water vole translocation for a terrestrial population despite not finding conclusive signs. I have discussed this with our Operations Director and our water vole specialist and we are comfortable that the potential for having water voles on site is low and that they are unlikely to be present on site. If you would like a water vole walkover to confirm this then we can cost for this but we don't think it is necessary. The 2021 Tetra Tech Ecological Appraisal also came to the same conclusion."

I also agree that further water vole surveys are unnecessary and the changes of them being on site are low to negligible.

PBA have still made some recommendations for addition survey to update the existing ones in line with best practice - but given the above we do not anticipate significantly different results that would have an impact on the planning decision. These surveys are currently in progress and comprise an update great crested newt eDNA of surrounding ponds (these one I can confirm were still negative as I have spoken to our consultant yesterday) update reptile surveys, update badger survey and update bat scoping of the trees.

Kind regards



Sarah Rochelle
Principal Ecologist Gleeson BSc Hons MSc AclEEM