

**From:** Nick Miller  
**To:** Stephens, Jake; BramfordtoTwinstead  
**Subject:** Bramford-Twinstead Reply to Examining Authority's Questions  
**Date:** 30 October 2023 13:31:26

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Hello, these are my replies to Reply to Examining Authority's Questions  
I apologise for replying so close to the 31st Oct email, I have been without any internet connection.  
Thankyou  
Nick Miller, [REDACTED]

**EC1.3.8 Nick Miller**

**You have raised concerns on matters relating to biodiversity [RR-103], referring to your 'own surveys, and... important information from local residents Nigel Morgan, John Dumont and John McGlashan, as well as Nightingale survey information from Martin Peers, and Dormouse survey information from Suffolk Wildlife Trust (on behalf of Essex Wildlife Trust).' Do you intend to submit the survey information into Examination (noting that badger data would need to be on a confidential basis, and that the information should be evidenced and include the qualifications and experience of the surveyors)?**

**EC1.3.9 Nick Miller**

**Can you clarify if your representation [RR-103] questions the Applicant's baseline information and mapping in relation to the Alphemstone Meadows Local Wildlife Site and important adjacent scarce habitats (i.e., do you believe any are missed out of the ES)?**

**Reply to question EC1.3.8:** The following are the survey information, for Dormice, Nightingales, and Habitats and Species in the Local Wildlife Site

**Dormice**

1. Attached spreadsheet (at end of this email) of Dormouse records from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, I can also supply if required, a map showing those locations.
2. Following emails 5/7/23, 7/7/23, from Suffolk Wildlife Trust/ Essex and Suffolk Dormouse Group, inc statements "I can confirm these records were obtained from surveys carried out by the Essex and Suffolk Dormouse Group." and "Dormouse records from Alphemstone attached for your reference."

**Johanna Green** [REDACTED] [@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)>

5 Jul 2023, 13:45

to Alison, me, [REDACTED] [@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your email passed onto us. I am just catching up with this after a couple of days annual leave. I am the new consultancy manager at Wilder Ecology following Simone's retirement.

We do have the records that were submitted to us from John, these have also been logged at the Essex Biological Records Office. I can confirm these records were obtained from surveys carried out by the Essex and Suffolk Dormouse Group.

If John can confirm he is happy for these results to be supplied, then we can issue these to you as well.

Kind regards,

*Jo Green*

**Consultancy Manager**

**Wilder Ecology**

**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

[REDACTED]

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**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

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Alison Looser [redacted]@suffolkwildlifetrust.org>

7 Jul 2023, 10:29

to me, John

Hi Nick and John,

Dormouse records from Alphamstone attached for your reference.

Just to confirm as Jo has already said that these are lodged with the Essex Records Centre.

Also any further potential records please do send them to both of us.

Thanks

Alison

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

#### **Nightingales**

I received the following information from Martin Peers in [redacted] and John Dumont in 2022 & 2023. I can also supply if required, a map showing those locations. Qualifications and Experience of Observers: John Dumont is an acute observer of wildlife who has from childhood lived in Alphamstone and explored it thoroughly throughout, as well as playing a leading part in official conservation projects there, he is a qualified geographer (retired) and I have received many biodiversity communications from him which have been detailed and evidenced, and regularly confirmed by my own observations, he has communicated with local landowners and National Grid's ecologists.

Martin Peers is an established local ornithologist whose knowledge is unbounded, he has provided frequent records to Suffolk and Essex Bird Recorders, and to the British Trust for Ornithology, over many years, his recording effort is continuous and he does regular repeat surveys, and publications show his records are well-regarded.

Singing male Nightingales:

Martin Peers: 2020 just north of Local Wildlife Site TL886356 & 888356; north-west of Anells Farm 867365; 865368

John Dumont: 2022 just north of Local Wildlife Site TL878360; 2023 5 close together just east of Local Wildlife Site TL883357 (same location as Martin Peers).

#### **Habitats and Species in the Local Wildlife Site**

My survey visit of April 2021 shows:

The Local Wildlife Site is a very steep valley side of pure sand, with springs, and dense Giant Horsetail & Bracken. At the top it is extremely dry with Lesser Calamint. Below it is a wide area of flooded marsh and peaty fen traversed by the Alphamstone Brook, with both series of Golden Saxifrage, Marsh Marigold and Wild Garlic. All these species form extensive patches, many other less scarce species were present. The Brook is visibly chalky and clear, with white-coated pebbles. The sand and fen areas and their flora are in contrast indicative of exceptionally acid ground. The citation of the Local Wildlife Site states the species are "a rich flora amongst which Marigold, Common Spotted Orchid, Marsh Horsetail, Ragged Robin, Creeping Jenny and Bog Stitchwort are of particular interest as species typical of a rare and declining habitat." John Dumont has recent records of Bullhead, Otter (photo available of spraints at the site) and nesting Tawny Owl.

Interpretation: I can say from my thorough experience of similar locations in the Stour Valley area, that these species and habitats are highly untypical of East Anglia, and are a classic combination particular to the tributaries of the River Stour, resulting from a glacial terminal moraine of sand and gravel. The high water-table typical of this will ensure springs and that the valley will be flooded and the Brook running, all year round. Such places are unsuited to any human use and this location is visibly natural and undisturbed by humans. Its light-soil character can be predicted to typically have light scrub and very old hedges with Dormice and Nightingales in surrounding undisturbed dry, sandy, and/or steep land.

Qualifications and Experience of Observer: Nick Miller - I hold a Degree in Biology, I have knowledge of Habitat Science and Botany in particular, have submitted some thousands of records, have participated in many conservation projects, and have spent 30 years as Warden of a Suffolk County Council Nature Reserve, which has species and habitats similar to Alphamstone's.

#### **Reply to question EC1.3.9:**

**Can you clarify if your representation [RR-103] questions the Applicant's baseline information and mapping in relation to the Alphamstone Meadows Local Wildlife Site and important adjacent scarce habitats (i.e., do you believe any are missed out of the ES)?**

I disagree with the Applicant's finding of Dormice only in the pit area in the western part of Henny Back Road, centred on TL872354. Adjoining to the west are the Suffolk Wildlife's recorded Dormice, and if the two populations are totalled, they are more than double those found by the Applicant. I disagree therefore with the Applicant's statement that the total is no more than the norm for the region. I also disagree with the Applicant's implication that any colony of numerous Dormice can be disregarded.