

A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

Deadline 4 – Written summary of oral submissions put at

Issue Specific Hearing 7 – 14 June 2019

**Tracé Williams, FarmView representing M & R Hosier, Borland Farm**

**Rachel Hosier M & R Hosier**

**20020373**

### **3. Effects on stone-curlew and adequacy of proposed mitigation measures**

**3.4 Effectiveness of provisions within the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) [APP-187, PW-BI05] to prevent disturbance to nesting birds by construction activity. Response to the environment Agency's concern that PW-BI05 measures are 'unreliable'.**

**Rachel Hosier, Borelands Farm.**

We have questions concerning screening. There are references in documents about screening but there is no detail of what these screenings will be. Will they be man made screenings? How high will they be? We also have questions as to what the planted screenings are going to be; there is reference that quick growing crops will be created as screening but as I understand there will be preliminary works to remove the topsoil ~ I'm not quite sure how these quick growing crops will grow when there is no topsoil.

The storing of topsoil and planting wild flowers or quick growing crops on top does not necessarily provide any screening for birds that will be coming into the area. Removing the top soil is creating nesting habitat. How in advance of construction, will the topsoil be removed, as timing is critical? Clearing as the stone-curlews are coming back is providing habitat. But the planted topsoil screening is somewhere else on the landscape.

**Tracé Williams representing M & R Hosier.**

Having worked for the RSPB for 14 years and having direct experience of nesting stone-curlew, monitoring and management and provision of habitat. Removing the topsoil and creating bare ground, is what's proposed for Parsonage Down curlew plot mitigation. Bare ground will have a high level of attraction for stone-curlews coming into the area. Also, it seems quite unworkable that it can be a 10-week period from nest creation to birds fledging; chicks fledging and leaving. I would suggest the whole process is quite unworkable depending on which time of year the construction is planned. The autumn roosts which are integral to their full entire breeding cycle have been overlooked; with young and adults gathering. The bare areas would likely attract them. Is the applicant aware of a potential 10-week period that they would have to exclude themselves from any breeding nests?"

**Rachel Hosier, Boreland Farm.**

Not everybody has experience with stone-curlew as was demonstrated at the archaeological surveys that took place near the Western portal last summer, when a number of times RSPB were called in to help locate the birds. I think this underlines the importance that the contractors chosen have the necessary experience, because this breeding species is not easy even for the experienced people to detect. It is imperative that there is this level of experience within the ecology of works department.

**4. Effects on Great Bustard**

**Rachel Hosier, Boreland farm**

Speaking with Mrs Manvell there are concerns about recreational disturbance within the Scheme in relation to the great bustards. We note that when the great bustards are next to our rights of way and they see us, they fly away.

**Tracé Williams, representing M & R Hosier**

Support the last statements, I would suggest that the still highly unknown impact of the increase in recreational pressure around Normanton Down reserve and the south area of the World heritage

Site will have unknown impacts upon both stone-curlew and great bustard, and there are quite a lot of I would suggest 'unqualified' statements in the applicants documents suggesting that there will be no effect to great bustard".

**Tracé Williams, for M & R Hosier**

Suggested disturbance to both breeding, for stone-curlew both breeding and roosting, as I've said between March and October, but for great bustard specifically breeding activity.

**4.3 Whether any additional specific measures are required to mitigate effects on great bustard.**

**Rachel Hosier, Borland Farm..**

PW-BIO5 only refers to Schedule 1 Annex 1 breeding birds, with no specific reference to great bustards and as Dr Paye has already said they have not carried out any surveys, so I struggle to see if they haven't carried out any surveys to understand the behaviour of the birds, how can appropriate mitigation for these species be included within these measures. The great bustard is a relatively new species so few people have any understanding of the birds in relation to monitoring. The ecology clerk of works would not have the necessary experience in this species as Mrs Manvell has already said, they are very difficult to spot therefore I would suggest that rather than having consultation with Natural England and all the other bodies it should be direct consultation with the Great Bustard Group as they are the people who have the knowledge.

**6. Overall effects of the Scheme on Biodiversity**

**6.1 Effectiveness of measures to secure long term management of calcareous grassland etc. to maximise gains in biodiversity.**

**Tracé Williams for M & R Hosier.**

Mowing was mentioned as the most destructive mechanism for managing grassland. Adding to this, Salisbury Plain with its high

diversity of rare invertebrate species, it's highly likely that the habitat created could attract in a lot of those rare species. There is the risk for the new grassland to act as a sink for those species that are being attracted in if mowing is going to be taken as a serious management tool. Grazing is the obvious establishment management tool to be utilised within certain areas of the new habitat.

### **Rachel Hosier, Borland Farm**

Pointed out that the area between the A303 and the deep cutting that is currently under our ownership I don't see why that has to be taken out of our ownership, I don't see why it can't be managed under agreement in our current ecology management scheme.

I struggle with the target purpose. We hear about the management and the monitoring and I have asked repeatedly if we can be told what target species are being put forward for the different areas. What are the target species with the area between the A303 and the deep cutting and green bridge 4? I fail to see how you can put together a management plan when you don't know what you are targeting.

## **6.2 Opportunities for management by grazing.**

### **Rachel Hosier, Boreland Farm**

Concerned over comments in the OLEMP about dumping grass mowings. Where will these be dumped, or could the scheme be designed to remove the areas of mowing and instead graze the areas. This is quite important now, because we had an Accommodation Works meeting but we were unable to progress matters because land management has not been decided. Grazing requires provision for adequate fencing, gates and water.

## **6.3 Means of preventing scrub encroachment.**

### **“Rachel Hosier, Boreland Farm**

As a farmer, I would like to have the opportunity to manage the grassland. Having co-created Normaton Down reserve we have experience and we have the livestock to do the task. I feel that farmers are marginalised, I don't have the status at meetings as National Trust and Natural England, but I am very keen and have experience and I don't want that to get overlooked.

## **8 Other pressing matters**

### **“Tracé Williams for M & R Hosier**

I would just like to highlight the omission, I believe the importance of the unknown increased recreational activity that will be incumbent upon the south of the World Heritage Site and indeed where the Normanton Down nature reserve lies. We are not convinced at the moment, we are not aware of any baseline data having been collected on the current recreational pressure to compare with what might increase, currently discussions between, any discussions regarding any mitigation for potential disturbance to stone-curlew which has been discussed or raised by various people around this table today, those discussions have only been between the RSPB and Highways England at the moment and as far as we are aware the only mitigation suggested being new fencing for Normanton Down reserve. We would like to ask that the fencing is considered completely irrelevant, we have already made statement in our written representation to that effect so I wont go over the same thing now, however my client has not yet been involved in any discussion regarding mitigation for Schedule 1 breeding birds being disturbed at the reserve on her land and I request that it be noted as a request that she is involved in any further discussions and her views taken into account as the landowner

### **“Rachel Hosier, Boreland Farm**

I asked for a meeting with the Ecology Team but I had not been given one. I had a last minute on the agenda of the Accommodation Works meeting which was my first meeting to discuss the ecology and the chalk grassland but apart from that I have had nothing.