

Save Our Sands continues to raise public awareness of the dangers the White Cross project poses to the natural environment and local communities.

As the first of its 39 post consent conditions, the developer has submitted a revised proposal for a bat survey [required due to the insufficiencies of the first one].

2 years of Citizen science research by an SOS member living on the cable corridor [together with Devon Wildlife Trust] has highlighted the presence of the rare and endangered Grey Long Eared Bat species.

We have transmitted this info to Natural England and White Cross.

The first have responded positively and objected to the current proposal.

The second has not responded in any meaningful way.

Another SOS member has noted that

‘Originally the species count on the best night of surveys from White Cross counted 15 species of bats in the area during one night, if you now add the Grey Long Eared bats (that were missed from being present due to the difference in bat detector used) that makes it 16 species. There are only 18 species of bat in the UK. To have a site with 16 species is nearly unheard of in the survey world- this species richness is unique.’

The revised survey is still not best practice - as noted in Natural Englands objection.

Over 230 objections from the public are available to view in the NDDC planning portal.

Meanwhile the Bat Conservation Trust reports that the Government is investing £60 million to help protect and restore endangered species and plants. Included in this are Grey long eared bats.

Together with Love Braunton we will continue to hold the developer and Council to account over this project and its multitude of post consent conditions.

Helen Cooper
Save Our Sands