On July 31, 2019, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC (CBBEL) completed a review of natural areas within the approximately 4,000 acre proposed development property located in St. Joseph County, Indiana near New Carlisle (Exhibits 1 and 2) to determine if habitat is present for Threatened and Endangered species identified by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dated July 20, 2019 (Appendix A). The INDNR listed two state endangered species including the Upland sandpiper and Henslow’s sparrow which are grassland habitat specific species. A non-listed species the Black throated green warbler was also on the list. The list also includes habitat and plant species. All records are specifically associated with the Bendix Woods County Park. The majority of the records for this project are from 1997-2002 for birds. Natural communities (woodland) 2002, and plants from 1914-1983. These records are 17 years old or older. The grassland bird records for the area are likely accidental. Breeding at the Bendix Woods site is unlikely due to the small amount of grassland available on site. Currently the grassland has been planted to tall grass prairie compared to the turf grass that existed in the past (Pers.comm Naturalist at Bendix Woods).

According to the DNR letter no species have been identified on the proposed development parcel. Bendix woods is located just west of the proposed development property and is composed on mature woods and preserved beech maple forest.

CBBEL completed an aerial photo review of the proposed development site and the property is comprised of mainly agricultural lands planted into corn and soybeans (Exhibits 2 and 3). Other types of habitat in smaller acreages include mature mesic woodlands, pasture and wetlands. CBBEL determined that woodlands and any pasture would be ground truthed to determine relative quality of habitat and potential for use by listed species. Bendix Woods County Park was also visited to compare general woodland quality and determine the origin of the upland sandpiper and Henslow’s sparrow records on this wooded preserve.

Two small pastures were observed in the study area and they were observed to be degraded with a high component of thistle and active grazing. It is unlikely that the listed bird species are found breeding in these pastures due to their small size and active grazing.
The largest woodlands are found on the northwest and northeast sides of the project area. The northwest woodland has signs posted that indicate that it is a Forest and Wetland Conservation Area. Several other woodlots on the study site are secondary successional woods.

CONCLUSION:
Based on the INDNR letter and site reconnaissance the project site does not appear to have any endangered species issues, however, we recommend avoiding the largest woodland areas in the northwest and northeastern corners for development primarily because there may be Federally endangered Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bats present in these mature woodlands. Consultation with the USFWS would need to take place to determine if endangered bat impacts are a concern. The smaller woodlots can be checked for bat habitat closer to the time of development, however, we recommend if the remaining woodlots need to be cleared, they should be done so after October 30 and before March 30 to avoid incidental take of protected bats.
Photo 1: Representative soybean field

Photo 2: Representative corn fields

Photo 3-4: Representative woodlands (Northeast and Northwest corners) in the study area
July 20, 2019

Robert P. Sliwinski
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600
Rosemont IL 60018

Dear Robert P. Sliwinski:

I am responding to your request for information on the endangered, threatened, or rare (ETR) species, high quality natural communities, and natural areas for a Potential Site Development in New Carlisle, surrounding intersection of SR 2 and Larrison Blvd. extending to US 20 in St. Joseph County, Indiana. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center has been checked and included you will find a datasheet with information on the ETR species documented within 0.5 mile of the project area.

The project is within 0.5 miles of the State protected and Dedicated Bendix Woods Nature Preserve that is owned and managed by St. Joseph County Parks.

The plant species documented are not found precisely within the project footprint, therefore there is no impact expected on the ETR plants documented. For more information on the animal species mentioned, please contact Christie Stanifer, Environmental Coordinator, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington Room W273, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204, (317)232-8163.

The information I am providing does not preclude the requirement for further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. If you have concerns about potential Endangered Species Act issues you should contact the Service at their Bloomington, Indiana office.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 South Walker St.
Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121
812-334-4261

At some point, you may need to contact the Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Review Coordinator so that other divisions within the department have the opportunity to review your proposal. For more information, please contact:

Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Christie Stanifer
Environmental Coordinator
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 W. Washington Street, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317)232-8163

Please note that the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center relies on the observations of many individuals for our data. In most cases, the information is not the result of comprehensive field surveys conducted at particular sites. Therefore, our statement that there are no documented significant natural features at a site should not be interpreted to mean that the site does not support special plants or animals.

Due to the dynamic nature and sensitivity of the data, this information should not be used for any project other than that for which it was originally intended. It may be necessary for you to request updated material from us in order to base your planning decisions on the most current information.

Thank you for contacting the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center. You may reach me at (317)232-3517 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Teresa Clark
Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center

Enclosure: invoice datasheet
July 20, 2019

**INDIANA HERITAGE DATA WITHIN 0.5 MI OF:**

*Potential Development, New Carlisle, surrounding intersection of SR 2 and Larrison Blvd., St. Joseph County*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sci. Name</th>
<th>Com. Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Fed.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Dendroica virens</em></td>
<td>Black-throated Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warbler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bartramia longicauda</em></td>
<td>Upland Sandpiper</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td>1997</td>
<td></td>
<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ammodramus henslowii</em></td>
<td>Henslow's Sparrow</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
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</table>

**High Quality Natural Community**

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<tr>
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<th>Fed.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Forest - upland mesic</em></td>
<td>Grand Prairie Mesic</td>
<td>SG</td>
<td></td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Grand Prairie</em></td>
<td>Upland Forest</td>
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**Vascular Plant**

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<th>Fed.</th>
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<th>Site</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Geranium robertianum</em></td>
<td>Herb-robert</td>
<td>SR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Botrychium matricariifolium</em></td>
<td>Chamomile Grape-fern</td>
<td>SR</td>
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<td>1982</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Juglans cinerea</em></td>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td></td>
<td>1967</td>
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<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Panax trifolius</em></td>
<td>Dwarf Ginseng</td>
<td>WL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1914</td>
<td></td>
<td>BENDIX WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fed: LE = Listed Federal endangered; C = Federal candidate species
State: SE = State endangered; ST = State threatened; SR = State rare; SSC = State species of special concern; SG = State significant; WL = watch list; no rank - not ranked but tracked to monitor status