

Consultation Response from Biodiversity Officer
KC Ecology
2020/92415 Land at, Lancaster Lane, Brockholes, Holmfirth, HD9 7TL
Discharge conditions 2, 4, 6 on previous permission 2018/92589 for outline application for erection of residential development
Date Responded:
20/10/2020
Responding Officer:
Amy Reddick
Responding Ref:

Assessment

A landscape planting plan and landscape management plan are submitted with regards to Condition 4 on the Reserved matters application (2018/92589). Under Condition 5 on the same permission, these details must incorporate the recommendations set out with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal dated 12 July 2019 which states that *"should include native species and/or species of recognised wildlife value"*, therefore although the native hedgerow mix is welcomed, there is very little native planting proposed throughout the remainder of the landscaping plans and this should be improved. Condition 20 on the approved outline application (2016/90138) also states that *"the 'landscaping' of the site, all new shrub, tree and hedgerow planting within the site shall comprise native species of plants."* The proposed planting mixture should consist of approximately 80% native or non-native species with proven benefits to UK native wildlife and 20% ornamental species.

The hedge mixture proposed contains appropriate fruiting and flowering species beneficial to wildlife however, the proposed management regime indicates that these are to be cut twice a year. This is likely to reduce their ecological and wildlife value, hedges should be cut every other year or on a staggered rotational basis to allow flowering and fruiting.

The submitted PEA report also recommended that a *"'hedgehog highway' be established between the proposed gardens."* This should consist of either hedges bordering residential gardens or a 13 x 13cm hole cut into the bottom of fence panels to facilitate the movement of hedgehogs through the site. The locations of holes or hedges should be indicated on the landscaping plans.