

**Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit**

2020/92800 Land at, Pennine View/Pheasant Drive, Birstall, Batley, WF17 9LT

**Demolition of existing warehouse and workshop unit and the erection of 3 units with
reconfigured access, boundary treatment, landscaping and associated works**

**Date Responded:
02/10/2020**

**Responding Officer: Amy
Reddick**

Responding Ref:

Assessment

An Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) has been submitted with the application. The appraisal concludes that, with the application of mitigative measures, the proposals are unlikely to result in significant ecological harm. Therefore, I am satisfied that the likely ecological impacts of the development accord with national and local policies. The application of conditions will be required to secure adequate mitigative measures.

The BMP includes calculations for the biodiversity value pre- and post-development utilising the Biodiversity Metric 2.0. The submitted calculations indicate that the amenity grassland due to be created on site is considered to be of '*moderate*' condition however, the recommendations for management indicate that these areas of grassland may be mown up to twelve times annually to a short sward (5cm). Therefore, it is highly unlikely to meet the criteria required for '*moderate*' and would be more appropriately considered to be of '*poor*' condition. Amenity grassland should as a rule be considered of '*poor*' condition within the metric due to the low species diversity and intensive management regime. If the areas of the grassland are to be managed as wildflower meadows, these should be categorised as such and appropriate management proposed. With this taken into account the proposed management plan will result in a net increase in biodiversity of 3.32%. In order for the proposals to accord with National and Local policy, a 10% net gain in biodiversity will be required post-development. Therefore, as also requested by the tree officer, additional tree planting would be beneficial in order to achieve this.

In addition to the above, as recommended within the corresponding ecological appraisal, protected and notable species should be considered within the BMP such as the inclusion of faunal boxes and boundary treatments which facilitate the movement of hedgehogs.

Advice to Planning Officer

Additional measures should be incorporated into the BMP in order to demonstrate a 10% biodiversity net gain in the biodiversity metric. In addition, provisions for faunal boxes should be included within the BMP with clear site plans indicating their locations.