

**Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit**
2020/94096 Land south of, Swallow Lane, Golcar, Huddersfield, HD7 4NB
Erection of 19 dwellings and associated works
**Date Responded:
12/04/2021**
**Responding Officer: Amy
Reddick**
Responding Ref:

Assessment

The application is supported by an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, which although welcomed is not normally sufficient to support a planning application. However, in this instance as no further surveys are required and the report is adequately detailed to allow officers to assess the proposals in regard to National and Local policy. The report outlines that with the implementation of mitigative measures, no significant ecological impacts are anticipated as a result of the development. A series of conditions will be required to secure these.

The report also makes a series of recommendations for ecological enhancement measures to be included in order to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain such as bat and bird boxes, hedgerows and boundary treatments to facilitate hedgehog movement. However, these do **not give adequate security of a measurable biodiversity net gain** as required by Local Plan Policy LP30ii to “*minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net biodiversity gains through good design*”. The NPPF also indicates that biodiversity net gain is a measurable approach that demonstrates a clear benefit to biodiversity.

The current version of the Environment Bill (introduced to the House of Commons on 15/10/2019) will make a 10% biodiversity net gain mandatory for the majority of developments. In view of this, and in line with [Kirklees Technical Advice Note on Biodiversity Net Gain](#), applicants for major schemes in Kirklees are required to submit information that quantifies the predicted change in biodiversity value as a result of development. Therefore, it is requested that the beta version of the **Biodiversity Metric 2.0**, which is accompanied by detailed guidance and a free calculation tool, is used to demonstrate the change.

The habitat data collected during the Phase 1 habitat survey should be utilised to input into the biodiversity metric, however this will need to be converted to UK Hab classification and may require an update survey to confirm condition of the habitats present.

Any mitigation or ecological enhancement for the site should reflect the objectives of the Mid-Altitudinal Grasslands Biodiversity Opportunity Zones.

At present, I cannot support the proposals until additional information is submitted to demonstrate a measurable biodiversity net gain is submitted based on the ecological baseline pre-development and the predicted post-development value.

Required actions:

- **Assess the baseline value of the site and demonstrate a biodiversity net gain post-development utilising the Biodiversity metric 2.0.**