

Consultation Response from KC, Ecology Unit		
2020/91807 Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Oakenshaw, BD12 7ET		
Reserved matters application pursuant to outline permission no. 2016/92298 for re-development of former waste water treatment works following demolition of existing structures to provide employment uses (use classes B1(c), B2 and B8)		
Date Responded:03/08/2020	Responding Officer: Amy Reddick	Responding Ref:

## Assessment

This application is for the reserved matters relating to phase 2 of the overall development given outline permission in 2018 under 2016/92298. One of the conditions (Condition 6) states that any detailed plans and particulars of the reserved matters shall include a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP). A soft landscaping proposal has been submitted with the application and whilst this identifies the new habitats to be created, species to be planted and habitat creation techniques it fails to address several elements required as part of the BEMP including:

- Description and evaluation of the features to be managed
- Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
- Aims and objectives of management.
- Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
- Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (of at least 5 years, capable of being rolled forward)
- Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan.
- Details for on-going monitoring and remedial measures

The landscaping to the east adjacent to Hunsworth Beck appears to follow the contour of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (KWHN) and, whilst the inclusion of this buffer zone offers some protection to the network, it does not enhance the function or connectivity of the KWHN or provide additional links where opportunities exist in accordance with Local Plan Policy LP30(iii) and (iv). In addition, it is not anticipated that the current landscaping plan will provide a biodiversity net gain on the site in accordance with LP30(ii).

The following measures should be included as a minimum within a BEMP, along with the information listed above, to accord with local and national policy and secure a net gain for biodiversity on the site -

- The proposed planting on this border is a mixture of grass species with no or few forb species, it is recommended that this is revised to a mixture of grass and forb species in order to provide higher benefits for pollinators and other species.
- The landscaping proposals prescribes spraying herbicide in close proximity to Hunsworth Beck to establish the new grassland, it is advised that alternative methods are used in close proximity to the watercourse as recommended within the Environmental Statement within the outline application.
- As well as landscaping details the BEMP should include details of ecological enhancements for protected or notable fauna on the site, for example bat, bird or insect boxes. The type and positioning of boxes should be informed by an ecological consultant in order to maximise the opportunities on the site.