

**Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit**
2021/91571 land south of The Lodge and north of Church Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield
Erection of residential development for 125 dwellings
**Date Responded:
01/07/2021**
**Responding Officer: Amy
Reddick**
Responding Ref:

Assessment

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) has been provided to support the application, which is welcomed. This provides a comprehensive assessment of the ecological constraints and impacts of the scheme. Therefore, provided the ecological measures identified within the EcIA are incorporated, it is not anticipated there will be significant negative ecological impacts and the proposals are in accordance with LP30i.

The EcIA also outlines the ecological baseline of the site and the predicted post-development value utilising the biodiversity metric 2.0. In general, these are considered acceptable, however as highlighted by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, it would be useful to have further clarification regarding how the habitat condition and classification has been applied and for the proposed condition of the proposed woodland succession of "moderate". As highlighted within [Kirklees Biodiversity Technical Advice Note](#), steps in condition of this size are generally not permitted without sound justification and there are concerns where the new woodland backs onto the residential curtilages of the proposed dwellings that this will inhibit the level of condition that can be achieved in these areas.

In addition, it is noted that the proposed SuDS area has not been incorporated into the Biodiversity Metric Calculations. This should be included in order to accurately predict the post-development of the site. As highlighted by KC Landscape, further clarification of the treatment of this area is requested, the EcIA states that the area will be enhanced towards biodiversity with native trees, shrubs and a species rich grassland. However, the proposed site plan depicts that there will be a 3m easement around the SuDs basin, which will severely limit the number of trees to be planted. The following comments were made by KC Ecology at pre-application *"There should be some degree of public accessibility to the design of these open space elements, although main objectives should be towards biodiversity, given the location of the development (within 7km of the South Pennine Moors) it would be advantageous to create suitable areas on site to facilitate dog walking and other recreational activities to minimise visits to the sensitive sites"*. Clarification regarding the above, and whether a circular route around the site for recreational purposes is to be included, is therefore requested.

In addition, the concept of strengthening the southeast to northwest connectivity, through the provision of street trees or hedgerows within the site, as stated by KC Landscape is supported.

Required Actions-

- **Further detail on condition and habitat classification**
- **Clarification regarding the level of planting possible around the SuDS basin**
- **Inclusion of the SuDS area within the metric calculations**