
Good Morning to you all,

I have just noted this update that went on overnight (it was not there yesterday), it makes interesting reading, however the report is based on a survey carried out in March 2020, which is outside of the recommended scope and also it is now two years out of date. I have highlighted below concerns and would like to add a further objection to this development based on this report.

I am especially concerned that the report states there will be a negative impact on bio diversity but that this can be off set with gains elsewhere see 4.8 & 4.9 below. How can this be allowed to happen, the residents here are being penalised with a negative effect whilst elsewhere someone else will gain.

Also how can this survey be considered adequate when it falls outside of ***the optimal survey period for botanical identification April – September*** see 2.5 of report.

The report also makes assumptions that gardens planted with wild flower grass will alleviate some of the issues, but where is the guarantee that future residents will continue with this solution? So many are now replacing lawns with artificial grass or just paving over.

I feel this is a never ending saga with the developer submitting reports piecemeal to wear us down. I find this unethical and immoral that the developer seems to have no regard whatsoever to the existing community.

Surely at some point common sense will prevail and it will be accepted that this development is just far too large for this area and consideration should be given to either downsizing or finding an alternative site that is less heavily populated.

Can you confirm if there has been any update as to when and under what heading this will be submitted to the planning committee.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration on this matter
Regards

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

1.3 The proposed development is for the construction of **275 dwellings**, with greenspace and other associated infrastructure. This forms part of a wider housing development allocation, which is adopted in the Kirklees Local Plan (2019) Site Reference: HS11.

Habitat Assessment & Biodiversity Net Gain

2.1 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was **completed on the 24th March 2020** to assess the habitats present on site and to fully inform the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) using the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.0. This information was used to:

- Adequately map the onsite habitats to inform the BIA; and
- Undertake habitat condition assessments as per those outlined within The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Technical Supplement1 .

Survey Limitations

2.5 The Phase 1 habitat Survey was undertaken on the 24th March 2020, ***which falls outside the optimal survey period for botanical identification (April – September)***. However, given the habitats present within the site, ***it was considered adequate*** to accurately assess the habitat types and their condition.

In accordance with NPPF (2013), the aim is to generate a measurable net gain for biodiversity.

4.2 Kirklees Local Plan, which was adopted in February 2019 . The key local policy concerned with ecology is Policy LP30 which states; “Development proposals will be required to:-

- ***result in no significant loss or harm to biodiversity*** in Kirklees through avoidance, adequate mitigation or, as a last resort, compensatory measures secured through the establishment of a legally binding agreement;”

4.3 The Environment Act (2020) , which was enacted in November 2021 ***requires a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity units***. This is likely to become mandatory in November 2023, two years after royal assent.

4.4 With the BM outlined within Appendix A post development, the habitat enhancements and

creation as outlined in this document with long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years) **will achieve 15.5 Biodiversity Habitat Units, which is a total net unit change of -7.16 Biodiversity Habitat Units, equating to a -31.60% net percentage loss.**

4.5 **The habitat trading is also currently unacceptable due to the loss of modified grassland.**

4.6 There will however be a considerable net gain in hedgerow units post development. With the creation outlined in Appendix A and ***long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years)*** 4.52 Hedgerow Units will be achieved, which is a total net unit change of +2.64 Hedgerow Units, equating to a +141.16% net percentage gain.

4.7 The above calculation does not account for the following additional enhancement measures that will be provided within the development as these cannot be quantified using the Natural England BM calculator.

The inclusion of the following biodiversity enhancements to what has already been outlined above would be considered a benefit to biodiversity.

- Provision of bat and bird boxes throughout the site;
- Installation of gaps for hedgehogs within boundary treatments;
- ***Amenity grassland lawn areas (within gardens of the residential properties) to be seeded with a flowering lawn mix such as Emorsgate EL1. The species diversity and flowers will improve the value of the habitat to invertebrates.***

4.8 As the development **proposals cannot deliver a net gain on-site** there is a ***requirement to secure a net gain via an alternative mechanism.***

4.9 **Offsite contributions could include a combination of the following:**

- **Utilising off-site land under the control of the applicant to deliver the off-site requirement. The land should ideally be located in a strategic ecologically beneficial location.**
- **A Biodiversity Credit calculated based on the Biodiversity Units required for the LPA or another third-party Habitat Bank (to be approved by the LPA) to take on responsibility to deliver the Net gain for biodiversity.**

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