

**Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit**

2026/90830 adj, 711, New Hey Road, Outlane, Huddersfield, HD3 3YL

Outline application for erection of residential development

Date Responded: 30/04/2026

Responding Officer: Zara Hanshaw, Biodiversity Officer

Responding Ref:

I have reviewed the information provided in support of this application.

Although the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric shows that >10% net gain can be achieved onsite through the creation of modified grassland, urban trees and mixed scrub, I am not satisfied that this is appropriate in terms of design or deliverability. The plans proposed 3 islands of mixed scrub immediately adjacent to the new dwellings, with an urban tree within each. Practically mixed scrub would contain species such as hawthorn, hazel, holly, dog rose, bramble and blackthorn, and the tree species should grow up to at least 3m tall. Many residents may consider this 'messy' and it is very likely that it will result in residents cutting or removing it, especially if it is effectively in their front garden. It is also unlikely that the individual trees planted within the scrub will establish well, and successfully grow above the height of the scrub, nor am I confident that a single urban tree is appropriate habitat delivery when contextualised in the area of mixed scrub.

Finally, I would also note that the mixed scrub has been input into the BNG Metric as a single habitat parcel, but the submitted plans show 4 separate locations where mixed scrub is proposed. Where non-contiguous parcels are included in the BNG Metric, these should be input as separate rows within the metric, to adequately represent the habitats to be created.

I would therefore recommend that the scheme layout is revised to ensure that appropriate, deliverable BNG enhancements can be included.

