

Heneghan Architecture Response to Ecology Comments

Application Ref: 2026/91284

The Plough Barn, Birds Edge Lane, Birds Edge, Huddersfield, HD8 8XR

Further to the comments received from the Kirklees Ecology Unit, please accept the following response in respect of the requested CEMP: Biodiversity, pollution prevention measures, lighting and tree planting provenance.

The proposal relates only to the temporary construction access track, associated compound, parking, materials storage and turning area required to facilitate the approved works at Plough Barn. The access track is temporary and will be removed following completion of the approved construction works, with the land reinstated as far as reasonably practicable.

CEMP: Biodiversity and Pollution Prevention

The temporary access track, compound, parking, materials storage, site cabin and HGV turning area shall be formed and operated strictly within the approved working area shown on drawing 2562-0501-P01. Construction traffic shall use the existing gated field access. Birds Edge Lane shall not be used for construction site access, other than in an emergency or where otherwise agreed.

Prior to works commencing, the site manager / principal contractor shall brief all contractors and delivery drivers on the approved working area, access route, storage areas and environmental controls. No materials, spoil, fuel, chemicals, plant or machinery shall be stored outside the approved construction area.

Existing retained vegetation, field boundaries, hedgerows, trees and any nearby drainage features shall be treated as biodiversity protection zones. These areas shall be protected from damage and shall not be used for storage, parking, refuelling or unloading. Where required, simple temporary fencing, barriers or warning signage shall be installed to prevent accidental encroachment.

The track shall be formed using the temporary construction build-up already shown on the submitted drawing, including stripped topsoil, non-woven Terram, clean stone, MOT Type 1 and integrated geogrid. Topsoil shall be retained on site for later reinstatement.

Good practice pollution prevention measures shall be followed throughout the works. Refuelling shall take place only within the agreed working area and away from any watercourse, ditch, drain or waterbody. Spill kits shall be kept on site and contractors shall be made aware of their location and use. No fuel, oils, cement washout, chemicals, silty water or contaminated run-off shall be allowed to enter any ditch, drain, watercourse or waterbody. Any stockpiled materials shall be managed to avoid silt migration, and works shall be paused or controlled where weather conditions create an unacceptable risk of run-off.

No unnecessary vegetation clearance is proposed. If any vegetation clearance is required, it shall be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season where reasonably practicable. If this is not possible, the area shall first be checked by a competent person. Should nesting birds or any protected species be encountered, works in that area shall stop and advice shall be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist before proceeding.

No routine ecological clerk of works attendance is considered necessary given the temporary nature of the works and the low ecological value habitats identified. However, ecological advice shall be sought if unexpected protected species issues arise during the works.

On completion of the approved construction works, the temporary track and construction areas shall be removed and the land reinstated as far as reasonably practicable.

Lighting

No fixed external lighting is proposed as part of the temporary access track works. The construction hours already associated with the approved development shall be observed, namely 07:30 to 18:30 Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays, with no construction-related noise on Sundays or Public Holidays.

On this basis, a detailed lighting strategy is not considered necessary. Should the Local Planning Authority require control, a condition could simply prevent any external lighting being installed.

Tree Planting Provenance / BNG

In response to the Ecology Unit's request for clarification on when and how the trees were planted, we confirm that the planting relied upon in the BNG report comprises privately funded planting undertaken by / on behalf of the applicant on land within the applicant's control.

A planting purchase schedule is enclosed. This records the private purchase of trees, hedging and structural landscape planting between June 2021 and November 2025, from commercial suppliers including Grasslands, Paramount Plants, Ornamental Trees, Seagrave, Bowhayes Trees and others. The schedule records a total of approximately 730 planting items, with a total private expenditure.

The planting did not form part of any Kirklees Council, county-wide, public, charitable, community or grant-funded tree planting scheme. It was not planted pursuant to any separate planning condition, legal agreement, biodiversity offsetting scheme, nutrient scheme, woodland creation grant, public tree initiative or other BNG obligation. It has not been claimed or relied upon to deliver biodiversity net gain for any other development.

The trees and planting have been planted using standard horticultural methods, with appropriate ground preparation, planting pits / trenches, backfilling, firming-in, watering and use of stakes, ties, guards or supports where required. The applicant is responsible for ongoing aftercare, including watering, weed control, checking stakes / guards / ties and replacing any failures where necessary to ensure successful establishment.

We trust this confirms that the tree planting is private applicant-led planting and is not being double-counted against any wider planting initiative or separate biodiversity obligation.