



Our Ref: PE0160/HS/ENV

Date: 29th March 2021

Wayne Campbell
Cherwell District Council
Sent via Email

Dear Mr Campbell,

210-0500-OUT Land North Of Railway House Station Road Hook Norton: Response to Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust comments dated 23rd March 2021

Thank you for forwarding comments from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) in relation to the above scheme, dated 23rd March 2021. This letter aims to address point 2 as follows. Point 1 will be addressed separately.

Policy ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment states “*In considering proposals for development, a net gain in biodiversity will be sought by protecting, managing, enhancing and extending existing resources, and by creating new resources*”.

The specific use of a Biodiversity Impact Calculator (BIC) to determine a net gain in biodiversity is not currently required by local planning policy, or national planning policy and is only one example of tools to use given within the NPPG. The proposed development is outline, with all matters except access reserved. As such, landscape planting details are not available to use in a BIC.

Taking a precautionary approach, we ran the proposed scheme layout through the DEFRA v2 Biodiversity Impact Calculator selecting baseline as arable and generic ‘Urban - Suburban/ mosaic of developed/natural surface’ for post-development, due to the lack of landscape planting details at this stage. On this basis there would be a 40% increase in Biodiversity Net Gain. The hedgerows are being enhanced with 7.5m wide native planting on the eastern boundary which would also deliver an enhancement of native hedgerow on site. The proposed scheme also includes an attenuation basin which could be designed to also deliver additional biodiversity.

The proposed development can clearly deliver Biodiversity Net Gain in principle, given that the site is under arable production and the proposed development as shown on the submitted illustrative layout includes large areas Green Infrastructure which could be planted with native species mixes. It is suggested that a planning condition is imposed which requires the detailed landscaping proposals to be submitted at the reserved matter stage and demonstrate how Biodiversity Net Gain will be delivered through selection of appropriate species mixes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Holly Smith MCIEEM