

The site appears to entirely comprise hardstanding, with some colonising vegetation of low value. Less than 25 sqm of habitat with a biodiversity value more than zero is likely to be impacted by the proposed works and therefore the de minimis exemption from BNG will apply.

Nevertheless, we would make the following general recommendations:

- Protected species can turn up in unexpected places and the granting of planning permission does not negate the need to abide by the laws which are in place to safeguard biodiversity. An informative should be used so that the applicant is aware that they must seek ecological advice should they find or suspect that the proposal will impact on protected species.
- Any works that could impact on nesting birds should not be undertaken in the main bird nesting season (March – August) unless suitable checks for active bird nests have been undertaken.
- Planning policy encourages enhancements and net gains for biodiversity to be delivered through the planning system. Wherever possible measures to enhance the site for biodiversity should be secured as part of this planning application; these could include integration of bat or bird boxes into the proposed building on site

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit