

PA 69710 - Ecology Response

Thank you for your consultation on the above application at Prestwich.

The information submitted with the application includes an ecological checklist. However this list is not considered valid in Greater Manchester as it is designed for use where a local authority does not have an ecologist. The checklist has also been completed incorrectly as it claims there is no woodland with 50m of the site, when there is woodland across the road.

Based on the tree report and aerial photography, the site supports species poor grassland of limited value as well as a birch tree and some scrub. The proposals appear to result in the loss of these features with no apparent compensation. Consequently the scheme appears to result in a net loss of biodiversity.

Notwithstanding the above, as the trees and scrub on site could be used by nesting birds, we would recommend that the following condition be attached to any permission, should it be granted:

No removal of or works to any trees or shrubs shall take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive, unless a competent ecologist has undertaken a careful, detailed check of vegetation for active birds' nests immediately before the vegetation is cleared and provided written confirmation that no birds will be harmed and/or that there are appropriate measures in place to protect nesting bird interest on site. Any such written confirmation should be submitted to the local planning authority.

Yours sincerely

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