

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

### Summary

There do not appear to be any significant ecological issues associated with this site.

### Wildlife Issues

The site is primarily artificial unsealed surface with the only buildings appearing to be converted container, structures with negligible bat roosting potential. There is less than 25sqm of sparsely vegetated habitat, surrounded by similar habitats associated with this business. I am satisfied that it is very unlikely that there are any wildlife issues including protected species, priority species and nesting birds associated with this development.

### Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment & Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Section 187 of the NPPF 2024 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. 10% BNG is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

The development will result in the loss of up to around 20sqm of low ecological value habitat in poor condition. There are no wildlife issues. Soft landscaping is proposed that will enhance the site. *The soft landscaping proposals can be conditioned as part of any permission.*

The BNG statement from a suitably qualified consultant, confirms that the site is exempt from mandatory BNG based on the de minimis rule. Whilst checking through google imagery vegetation has at times exceeded 25sqm on the plot since 2020, it has also been totally absent. (No vegetation in 2020 rising peaking in 2022/2023. I therefore accept that the changes in vegetation over these 5 years are down to levels of operational activity on this site. No further information or measures are required. No further information or measures are required.

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