

72082 – Land to south of 390 Manchester Road, Ramsbottom

Thank you for consulting the GMEU.

Summary

We are unaware of any ecological issues for this site that would prevent permission in principle. The main ecological issue is likely to be biodiversity net gain.

Protected Species

There appear to be no buildings or mature trees on site that could provide bat roosting opportunities and no ponds with habitat connectivity. The only theoretical risk to a protected species is to badger, known to be present in the locality.

As part of any planning application, we would recommend provision of a preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA).

Nesting Birds and Other Wildlife

There is a theoretical risk of nesting birds and other wildlife utilising the site. The PEA would be expected to assess the level of risk to other wildlife.

Invasive Species

Species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed could be present. The PEA would be expected to report on the presence or absence of such species.

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 an area of low to moderate value grassland to development. The field appears to have been through a period of abandonment from around 2000 to 2020, with the field having undergone some management over the last five years. There are unlikely to be any significant wildlife issues.

10% biodiversity net gain will likely apply. If a tight red edge is utilised, it will be very unlikely that 10% net gain can be achieved on the site and off-site credits would need to be purchased. If however, the entire field was incorporated into the application, enhancement or habitat creation on the part of the field that was not developed would likely enable 10% net gain to be achieved on-site. As part of any planning application a BNG assessment and metric should be provided or a BNG statement if they believe the development is covered by an exemption.

I recommend incorporation of bird bricks in-line with the developing Bury Local Plan in to each proposed dwelling.

Ecologist

GM Ecology Unit