

From: David Dutton [mailto:david.dutton@tameside.gov.uk]
Sent: 22 November 2022 10:36
To: Clapworthy, Dean <D.Clapworthy@bury.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning application 68930 Tom Nook Farm

Hi Dean

Thank you for consulting the GMEU

Summary

The developer's ecological consultant identified no significant ecological issues. Issues relating to nesting birds, invasive species and biodiversity enhancement measures can be resolved via condition.

Protected Species

I have no reason to suspect that there are any protected species issues associated with this development. No further information or measures are required.

Nesting Birds

The consultant assessed the site as having bird nesting potential. All British birds nests and eggs (with certain limited exceptions) are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. I recommend a condition along the following lines be applied to any permission.

No works shall commence between the 1st March and 31st August in any year unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to clearance and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the LPA.

Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan balsam was identified on-site. Species such as Himalayan balsam are included within schedule 9 part 2 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. It is an offence to introduce or cause to grow wild any plant listed under this schedule. I assume that the balsam extends up the ditch, therefore eradication is unlikely to be an option, though burial of the plants is likely to eradicate the plant within the development footprint. The main risk is therefore spread off-site by vehicles and work personnel. I recommend a condition along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Prior to any earthworks a method statement detailing biosecurity measures for himalayan balsam should be supplied to and agreed in writing to the LPA. The agreed method statement shall be adhered to and implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Section 174 of the NPPF 2021 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. The development will result in the loss of rough neutral grassland, tall herb and scrub and any associated bird nesting habitat as well as culverting a section of ditch. I recommend that as mitigation the ditch upstream of the development site is enhanced through for instance removal of invasive species and enhancements such as willow scrub or tree planting, installation of leaky dams to hold back water in the ditch and vary the microhabitats etc. The details can be dealt with via a condition along the following lines.

Prior to development a biodiversity mitigation enhancement plan will be provided for the ditch upstream of the section to be culverted. The agreed plans will be implemented in full.

David Dutton

Ecologist

Planning

Planning and Transportation

Place

[Tameside MBC](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Dukinfield Town Hall | King Street | Dukinfield | Tameside | SK16 4LA