



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: Amanda Cue
FROM: Helen Forster
DATE: 25 June 2025
SUBJECT: Land At Market Square Gravesend 20250427

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (KCC EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the county council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application and if sufficient/appropriate ecological information has been provided.

Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the planning officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

Condition 20 states; *Prior to any part of the permitted development being occupied or used, and notwithstanding the details shown on the approved plans, submitted documents and application form, a scheme detailing the proposed soft landscaping shall be submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include the type and species of planting to be carried out, to include their quantity and size as well as arrangements for aftercare. Thereafter the approved soft landscaping scheme shall be carried out in full during the first available planting season following first occupation of the development. Any trees or plants that die, are damaged, removed or become diseased within five years from the date that the development is first brought into use shall be replaced with a species of a similar size and species during the next available planting season.*

We have reviewed the submitted landscaping scheme and we note that the majority of species proposed are non native species and we would encourage that the percentage of native species within the site to be increased. We have taken this view as native plants have an established relationships with the local wildlife, forming intricate ecological relationships. Many insects, and birds (and mammals) depend on specific native plants for food, shelter, and breeding. When native plants decline, these species often struggle to survive. In addition following a recent article published by the Natural History Museum,

over 53% of native UK plants are in decline, while 58% of non-native species are expanding, often at the expense of native flora.

However we acknowledge that this is not a requirement of the condition wording. We will defer to GBC on this matter.

We have considered if the shrubs/foliage proposed are good for pollinators and we note that some of them are. However the number of species to benefit pollinators could be increased and we recommend that, where available, varieties of the plants which benefit pollinators must be planted.

If you have any queries regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Forster MCIEEM
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:

- Planting Plan x2; HED; March 2023