



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: Amanda Cue
FROM: Elizabeth Fagg
DATE: 18 November 2024
SUBJECT: 2024087 Land at St Columbas Close, Gravesend

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 16

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.

The planting plan has provided information regarding the planting locations, species and size. We note a good number of native species and plants suitable for pollinators have been used. We are satisfied with the planting but highlight that the grassed areas could be enhanced by including a wildflower mix. The maintenance plan for aftercare has been submitted with timings and actions, noting this includes removal of stakes ties and shelters after a three year period which is good practise. We would discourage the use of herbicides, listed for prevention of weeds during the native thicket and hedge

establishment period, to avoid impacts to pollinators. We recommend the use of mulches and hand weeding where possible.

We have sufficient information to discharge this condition.

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

Elizabeth Fagg
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:

- Proposed planting plan-native planting mix 3,4,5, and Herb garden mix 6, Davis landscape architects, 18/4/24
- Proposed planting plan-trees, hedging and areas of grass, Davis landscape architects, 18/4/24
- Proposed planting plan- native mixes 1&2, Davis landscape architects, 18/4/24
- Soft Landscape Management & Maintenance Plan, Davis landscape architects, 17/4/24