

Our ref: 4151.SC
GBC ref: 20240546

Date: 12 July 2024

Mrs Lisa Fisher
Development Management
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent DA12 1AU

Dear Mrs Fisher,

20240546: Submission of details pursuant to conditions 4 (Tree Protection), 6 (Biodiversity Enhancement) and 7 (External Lighting) pursuant to planning permission 20240329: Demolition of existing workshop and garage buildings and erection of replacement garage and new outbuilding.
Azila Dean Lane Harvel Kent DA13 0BS

I refer to the consultee response from the Kent County Council (KCC) Ecological Advice Service dated 27 June 2024.

Please find attached an updated drawing no 4151.01A.

In response to the assessment provided by KCC we would respond as follows. This letter should be read in conjunction with the already submitted details and covering letter.

Condition 4 Tree Protection

Drawing no 4151.01A has been amended to show a temporary storage area during the construction period.

A note has been added to the drawing regarding the appointment of a tree surgeon to assess and undertake any remedial work (if required) after completion of the works.

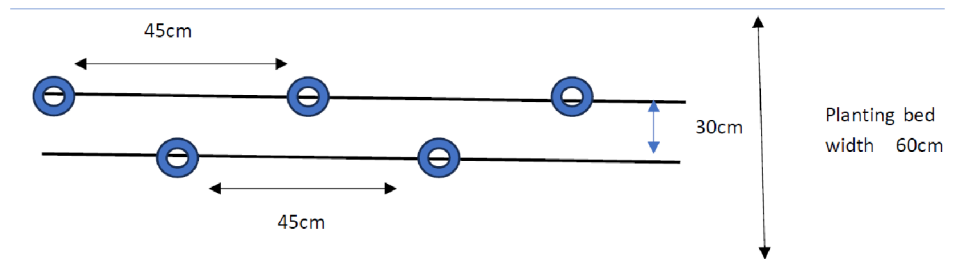
Condition 6 Biodiversity Enhancement

Additional notes have been added to drawing 4151.01 relating to the height and location of the owl and bat boxes.

Hedgerow planting/infilling.

- Prepare 60cm wide planting bed in areas where gaps are to be infilled. To be root, grass and weed-free and mulched and/or composted.

- Planting size: Whips (1-1.2m in height when planted)
- Species randomly mixed and ideally planted in double-staggered row at 45cm centres with rows 30cm apart.



- Provide individual bio-degradable plant protection tubes when planted.

New Hedgerow Maintenance

- Plant as specified above.
- Prevent weeds and grass from encroaching on the new plants within the planting strip. Ideally, weed the area by hand. Covering the area with a mulch will assist in keeping the area weed-free and maintaining moisture levels.
- Allow the additional hedge plants to establish and fill-out. Do not attempt to prune or cut-back for at least three years, only then remove damaged or wayward stems.
- Once new plants are established, vegetation can be allowed at the base to support wildlife and provide cover.
- If trimming is required wait until late winter to ensure berries and cover are available for wildlife.
- **Do not** cut-back or trim during the bird-breeding season (1 March to 31 August).

Wildflower area maintenance

YEAR 1

- It is important to mow the new meadow regularly in the first year after planting to encourage the perennial flowers and grasses to make strong root growth.
- Cut to a height of 5cm (2in), about six to eight weeks after the seedlings appear, and repeat every two months throughout the first summer. These cuts can be lower, at 4cm (1½in).

YEAR 2 onwards

- **Spring cut** – this is useful for meadows where the grass is lush and is crowding out the wildflowers. Cut to a height of 7.5cm (3in) and complete no later than the end of April.
- **Main summer cut** – this is also referred to as the 'hay cut' and removes the bulk of the material, which should either be composted or baled. This cut is done between late June and the end of August, depending on which

plants you want to encourage. Cutting towards the start of this period favours spring flowers, such as cowslips. August cutting favours summer flowers.

- Leave the cut material in place for a few days to allow the seeds to drop to the ground. Then rake up and remove the cuttings, to help reduce soil fertility.
- **Autumn cut** – this is particularly useful on fertile ground, to use up the nutrient. One or two cuts between the end of August and late November removes surplus growth and helps to keep grasses at bay, letting the wildflowers thrive.
- Following the last cut of the season, all meadows can be kept mown, so the grass is short and neat through the winter. **NOTE:** If any winter cut produces substantial clippings, they should be removed and composted, to further reduce soil fertility.

General Maintenance

- Ensure that perennial weeds (e.g. Dock, Thistles and Nettles) are dug up (by-hand if necessary) before they set-seed.
- Avoid watering or fertilising as this will encourage the grass to dominate the wildflowers.

Condition 7 Lighting

KCC's acceptance of these details as submitted is noted.

We trust that the amended drawing 4151.01A and this additional information are now sufficient to enable conditions 4 and 6 of permission 2024056 to be discharged in addition to condition 7.

If further any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



STEVE CLARKE
Associate Planner