



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: *Alison Webster*

FROM: *Helen Forster*

DATE: *25 July 2024*

SUBJECT: *Cherry Dene, Meopham 20240580*

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.

We have reviewed the protected/notable species survey information submitted by the applicant however we advise that additional information on the BNG assessment is required.

We have taken the view that no further species survey information is required as the site is largely a well managed lawn and the mature trees on site will be retained.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In July 2024 the statutory metric guidance has been updated to address what information should be included within the metric for private gardens. It has stated the following:

A private garden is a garden within the curtilage of a privately owned or tenanted dwelling house. Private gardens can contain important features for biodiversity, including mature trees and hedgerows. When recording habitats at baseline within a private garden you may need to assess any important features as individual habitat parcels to avoid under-recording biodiversity.

This may include:

- *recording individual trees*

- *recording hedgerows*
- *recording other habitats, such as ponds*

Recording baseline trees within private gardens

Record all medium, large and very large individual trees within private gardens.

With the exception of recording the trees we are of the view that the metric has been infilled correctly.

However the metric details that there are only two small trees on site and it has not referred to any of the other trees within the site. As detailed above only medium, large and very large trees must be recorded within the site and trees are defined as follows:

Small -DBH $\leq$ 30cm
Medium - DBH > 30 to $\leq$ 60cm
Large - DBH > 60 to $\leq$ 90cm
Very Large - DBH > 90cm
Total

As a result of reviewing the arboricultural report it is our view that in the site there are 23 small trees which don't require recording within the metric and 17 medium trees and 2 large trees which do require recording within the metric.

We advise that the metric is updated to reflect what is happening within the site. We highlight that as part of mandatory BNG there is a requirement to have an accurate baseline assessment submitted prior to determination of the planning application. We also recommend that the proposed development footprint is included within the revised metric.

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:
 Ecological Impact Assessment; Kent Sussex Ecology; November 2023
 Small Sites Metric
 Arboricultural Impact Assessment; Cantia; September 2024