

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 19th October 2017
UPDATE:

1 10/17/1083 Land off Old Bank Lane, Blackburn

Comments have been received from Capita Ecology on the 18th October, with regards to the submitted ecological appraisal.

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken on 7th August 2017. It identified the following: semi improved neutral grassland, with encroaching scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. No Habitats or Species of Principal Importance were identified or observed during the site survey. The site is considered of local conservation value only. Moreover, no designated or non-statutory designated sites lie within 500m of the site; there are no areas of recognised ancient woodland on or adjacent to the site or within 2km and no protected species were found but the site has potential to support nesting birds.

In order to protect habitats of ecological value and to ensure that the development provides enhanced wildlife, in accordance with the stated aims of The Framework, it is recommended that existing hedgerows are retained and / replacement planting is carried out; protective fencing to trees is used during construction; there is minimised illumination of the site boundaries; appropriate planting is undertaken, including wildlife friendly planting and bat and bird boxes are installed, if appropriate.

Accordingly, the ecologist recommends adherence to the recommendations of the Ecological Appraisal, and these should be applied by condition.

To ensure the development proceeds in line with protected species legislation as well as local and national planning policy and due to the obligations on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity as required by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, the following must be adhered to throughout the construction process and included within the development:

- The measures to ensure the non-native, invasive species do not spread into wider natural habitats, in Section 5.10.*
- The Recommendations and Biodiversity Enhancement measures throughout all of Section 6.*
- Precautionary methods of working to avoid harming amphibians such as frogs and toads which may be present on the site.*

Gavin Prescott
Development Manager
19th October 2017