To Planning Team,

The metrics I provided are based on our survey, assessment and reported findings in our Preliminary Ecological Appraisal issued in January. Please refer to section 3.2 of the report, which includes the following:

- 3.2.3 Review of historic aerial imagery revealed the Site appeared to have been subject to complete clearance in 2022, prior to which it appeared to comprise broadleaved woodland. This is concurrent with the findings of the field survey, as well as data from the Living England Habitat Map (Phase 4) which categorizes the area as “Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland”.
- 3.2.4 In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2024) regarding habitat degradation, habitat condition has therefore been assumed based on the habitat present prior to clearance, the date for which has been taken as April 2021. However, findings of the field survey have also been taken into consideration when determining habitat condition (i.e. presence of rubbish).
- 3.2.5 With this, the woodland on Site has therefore been determined to be in “moderate” condition.

Therefore, I can confirm that the metric reflects the habitats prior to clearance, as is required for habitats removed or degraded after 30 January 2020.

I trust this resolves this query.

Best regards,

Zoe Cawthorn

Ecology Consultant
Ecology