

BESSEEL830 – Battery Energy Storage System and associated works at Land West of Buxton Road, Dove Holes, Buxton - Addendum

Ellendale Environmental Limited was commissioned by Grenergy to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) for land at Buxton Road, Wormhill, Dove Holes, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK17 7HR ('the site'). The scheme been undertaken in support of a planning application (ref. HPK/2024/0467) for the proposed to develop a BESS at the site which is approximately 1.5 hectares in size ('the proposed development'). Surveys undertaken at the site as part of the PEA included an Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey and a preliminary protected species walkover.

This addendum has been written to address comments received from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, with regards to planning application DWTHPK/2024/0467 received via e-mail on the 8th May 2025. This addendum relates to comments on habitat and species, BNG.

Comments received and responses are below;

1] An updated version of the BNG Report (Ellendale Environmental, not dated) has been submitted, along with a revised metric (V1.5, 7th April 2025) and condition assessments. The metric incorrectly assigns 'poor' condition to the grassland, instead of 'moderate'.

After revisiting the condition assessment, the grassland within the site lacked the number of species within m² to achieve a moderate condition, forb species present within the site which is where confusion occurred to originally say that the moderate condition was met. The classification of the grassland as poor equates to the condition present at the time of the survey, and from multiple visits during the reptile surveys completed on site.

2] We remain concerned that the grassland classification used in the metric may have undervalued the grassland type due to the differences in the description and terminology used in the reports. If the applicants' ecologists could provide their justification and data to support the grassland being assigned to the modified grassland type rather than other neutral grassland that would be appreciated. As previously the noted the grassland was mapped as semi-improved grassland in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (not species-poor semi-improved). This typically equates to other neutral grassland in UKHabs. The species list is also indicative of other neutral grassland, and we remain concerned that the habitat is currently undervalued in the BNG calculations.

As justified in the previous addendum this area was classed as modified grassland due to the dominance of rye-grass and white clover present, and species-poor vegetation (<9 species per m²) was noted at the time of the survey. Although species such as bird's-foot trefoil, pignut,



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vetches, meadow foxtail, tufted hair grass and rushes were present these were limited in number, and in very localised areas. There is also intensive agricultural activity present, with livestock on the land throughout all surveys undertaken, leading to the ground to be heavily grazed, fertilised and maintained. Therefore, justifying the classification of this habitat as modified grassland.

The discrepancies within the PEA and the mapping have been modified and updated PEA/Mapping will be provided.