

From: Mark CD Ashdown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:27 PM
To: Section 62A Applications Non Major <section62anonmajor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Re: S62A/2024/0044 | 24/02222/PINS | Erection of a two-storey side extension comprising 1 no self-contained dwellinghouse. | 87 Queenshill Road Bristol BS4 2XQ

Dear Leanne,

An updated version of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide has just been published - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e45fba3c2a28abb50d426/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide_23.07.24_.pdf. It contains this guidance about how to value a degraded site at page 50:

Accounting for degraded sites

If a habitat has been cleared, destroyed or degraded previously, and you should use an earlier baseline, you must:

- use the pre-degradation habitat type as the site's baseline
- evidence how this habitat type and condition has been determined in the user comments
- record the habitat as lost within the biodiversity metric tool
- account for the time between the habitat loss and compensation using the 'delay in starting habitat creation or enhancement' function

You can use data records, imagery and historic field surveys to determine pre-degradation habitat types. Use a precautionary approach when assigning condition scores. For example, assign a higher condition score in the absence of contrary evidence.

Regards
Mark

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