

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Applicant **does not believe** that, if the development is granted Planning Permission, the Biodiversity Gain Condition (as set out in paragraph 13 of schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) would apply.

There has been no loss (or degradation) of any onsite habitats(s), resulting from activities carried out before the date of pre-development biodiversity value of onsite habitat(s) either on or after 30th January 2020 which were not in accordance with a Planning Permission; or on or after 25th August 2023 which were in accordance with a Planning Permission.

The site of "Bloomfields" the home of Needham Market FC. does not lend itself to any development that could contribute towards net gain for a number of reasons:

- All buildings on the site are relatively new and in very good condition.
- The site is in use all day/ every day and into the very late evenings by people taking physical and mental benefit from participating in sport, this produces noise and activity.
- Both football pitches on the site are floodlit as are active spectator concourse areas adjoining the pitches.
- The carparking areas are lit and hard surfaced, there is capacity for over 120 cars and coaches for visiting supporters in formal carparking areas and considerably more in informal areas.
- There is very little 'loose' vegetation on the site apart from a small 'self-set' shrub area by the main entrance gates. There is no other trees or landscaping within the ownership boundary as this is a 'working' football ground which attracts spectators.
- All boundaries to the site and to neighbours, except part of the interface with the allotments, are enclosed by continuous fencing as this is a working football ground which attracts spectators. The fence between the football ground and the allotments is continuous chain-link in good order.
- The ground capacity of the main stadium is 2250 and the club have an average home gate in excess of 300 spectators at home games, played Saturdays and midweek evenings and normally under floodlit conditions. Spectators create traffic movement, noise and activity which would contribute to the disturbance of natural habitats
- The grass on the main pitch is kept very well-manicured to facilitate the level of football being played on it, the Needham Market FC first team play in the Southern League and the venue is also used by Ipswich Town FC. for their Under 21's team matches against fellow Football League teams.
- The ground capacity of the 3G (artificial turf) pitch is approximately 350 matches are played Saturdays and midweek evenings and normally under floodlit conditions. Spectators create traffic movement, noise and activity which would contribute to the disturbance of natural habitats
- The 3G pitch is extensively used during the day by the students of the Needham Market FC. Academy and from mid-afternoon onwards until 1030pm. by local sports and football clubs utilising the state of the art facilities, producing traffic movement, noise and activity which would contribute to the disturbance of natural habitats

Additional details can be provided on request.