Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name: Jenna Buss
Date: **18/09/23**
Application No: PL/2023/06211
Proposal: Discharge of Condition No 9 on 14/05740/FUL (Installation of a 12MWp solar farm and associated infrastructure.)
Site Address: Land adjacent to Boscombe Airfield, Idminston, SP4 0AW
Case Officer: Georgina Wright

Condition No.	Further information required by condition	**Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)**
09	Before the scheme first becomes operational, an Ecological Management Plan (EMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority. The ecological management plan shall: i)be based on the Outline Ecological Management Plan (Delta Simons, 20th November 2014) ii)provide full details of the locations and measures that will be put in place to mitigate, compensate and enhance biodiversity on the site. iii)contain a five year management programme for ecological features with details of how management will be continued for the duration of the scheme iv)contain details of a monitoring programme to assess the effectiveness of the EMP with reporting to the planning authority in the first, third and fifth years after the site first becomes operational Planting, sowing and initial aftercare will be completed as specified in the approved EMP within one year of the site becoming operational. Management works will be undertaken in accordance with the approved EMP and the first year of the management programme will start in	**YES** **19/09/2023** **REF: Ecological Monitoring Report dated October 2021 by RES Group** **Letter P23-0881 dated 9 June 2023**

	the month in which the site first becomes operational. Reason: In the interests of ecology	

Thank you for consulting Ecology, I have reviewed the information submitted in support of the discharge of condition 09 including;

- Ecological Management Plan, March 2015 by Delta Simons;
- Ecological Monitoring Report Year 3, July 2019 by ES Group;
- Ecological Monitoring Report, October 2021 by RES Group and;
- Letter P23-0881 dated 9 June 2023

We welcome the final report on the effectiveness of the management plan which largely demonstrates that the current management is effective and can be maintained for the remainder of the life of the solar farm. However, we note the proposal to include a minor amendment to the management proposals to include an additional meadow cut in May/June to ensure that the vegetation does not encroach onto the panels and reduce efficacy. Assuming works are carried out as stated within the Ecological Monitoring Report dated 2021 and the cut is no lower than 200mm, we would not object to the discharge of this condition.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jenna Buss	**19/09/23**