Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name: Jenna Buss
Date: **27/03/2024**
Application No: PL/2023/10735
Proposal: Discharge of Conditions 7, 8 & 9 of planning application PL/2021/06112 (The development of a solar farm of up to 49.9 MW of generating capacity, comprising the installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure including customer cabin, customer substation, DNO substation and equipment, inverter and transformer substations, spare part container, associated battery storage, access tracks, fencing, security cameras, landscape planting and associated works)
Site Address: Land at Forest Gate, Pewsham, Chippenham, SN15 3RS
Case Officer: **Jonathan James**

Condition No.	Further information required by condition	**Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)**
7	Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The Plan shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase in accordance with the Requirements and Recommendations section of the submitted Full Ecological Assessment prepared by Wychwood Biodiversity (17/10/2022), and within the Avoidance section of the Biodiversity Management Plan prepared by Wychwood Biodiversity (17/10/2022). These will include but not necessarily limited to, the following: a) Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones and tree root protection areas and details of physical means of protection, e.g. exclusion fencing. b) Reasonable avoidance working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds, amphibians (great crested newts),	**YES** **27/03/2024** **Construction Environment Management Plan. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity**

	reptiles, bats and dormice. c) Working method statements where minor works are required within the hedgerow buffer. d) Mitigation strategies already agreed with the local planning authority prior to determination, such as for great crested newts, dormice or bats; this should comprise the pre-construction/construction related elements of strategies only. e) Work schedules for activities with specific timing requirements in order to avoid/reduce potential harm to ecological receptors; including details of when a licensed ecologist and/or ecological clerk of works (ECoW) shall be present on site. f) Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW). g) Timeframe for provision of compliance report to the local planning authority; to be completed by the ecologist/ECoW and to include photographic evidence. Development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved CEMP. REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development commences in order to ensure adequate protection and mitigation for ecological receptors prior to and during construction, and that works are undertaken in line with current best practice and industry standards and are supervised by a suitably licensed and competent professional ecological consultant where applicable	
8	Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The LEMP shall include long term objectives and targets, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules for each ecological feature within the development, together with a mechanism for monitoring success of the management prescriptions, incorporating review	**Yes** **27/03/2024** **Landscape Ecological Management Plan. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity.**

	and necessary adaptive management in order to attain targets. The LEMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which long-term implementation of the plan will be secured. The LEMP shall be implemented in full and for the lifetime of the development in accordance with the approved details. REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development commences in order to ensure the long-term management of landscape and ecological features retained and created by the development, for the benefit of visual amenity and biodiversity for the lifetime of the scheme.	
9	Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/excavation, site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Monitoring Strategy for the Biodiversity Management Plan hereby approved shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The Monitoring Strategy shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information: a) A scheme of monitoring focused on the key aspects of the Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plans; b) Details of a timetable to establish a monitoring baseline on completion of the development at the start of the operational phase c) A timetable for regular reporting for the lifetime of the development (in years 1, 3, 5, 10, 25, 40); d) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the Monitoring Strategy, with any change to this body or organisation to be notified to the local planning authority within three months of such a change. The Monitoring Strategy shall be implemented in full in accordance with the approved details for the entire operational lifetime of the installation. REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development commences in order to ensure the long-term management of landscape and ecological features retained and created by the development, for the benefit of visual amenity and biodiversity for the lifetime of the scheme.	**Yes** **27/03/2024** **Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity.**

We welcome the information submitted in support of the discharge of conditions 7, 8 and 9 in relation to Ecology to include;

- CEMP. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity;
- LEMP. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity;
- Biodiversity Management Plan. December 2023. Wychwood Biodiversity

Sufficient information has been submitted in support of the discharge of the above conditions, assuming works are carried out in accordance with the submitted information, we would support the discharge of these conditions.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jenna Buss	**27/03/2024**