

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name: Patrick Olshansky (Graduate Ecologist)
Date: 09/01/2026
Application No.: PL/2025/09104
Proposal: Discharge of conditions 4 (CEMP), 6 (CMP) & 7 (Habitat Monitoring Plan) relating to application PL/2024/05649
Site Address: Land North of Forest Gate Solar Farm, London Road, Pewsham, Wilts
Case Officer: Isobella Wise

Condition No.	Further information required by condition	Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)
4	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 the local planning authority for approval in writing. The Plan shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase, including 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, specific working methods. b) Working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds and reptiles. Including how access to, from and within the working corridor will be achieved with minimal impact upon surrounding habitats. c) Mitigation strategies already agreed with the local planning authority prior to determination, such as for works in close proximity to water bodies and hedgerows. d) Work schedules for activities with specific timing requirements in order to avoid/reduce potential harm to ecological receptors; including	YES Construction Environmental Management Plan – Biodiversity, 11th November 2025, Wychwood Biodiversity River Avon Horizontal Directional Drilling Method & Monitoring Statement Forest Gate Solar Farm Cable Route Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) (Construction), 9th October 2025 Flood Action Plan (FAP) (Construction Phase), October 2025

	details of when a licensed ecologist and/or ecological clerk of works (ECoW) shall be present on site. e) Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW). Development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved CEMP. REASON: 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.	
7	No development shall commence on site until a Habitat Monitoring Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority to include: • The proposed habitat restoration procedures to be implemented to ensure all habitats have been restored to their original condition within 2 years. • The monitoring methodology to be implemented to ensure the above. The details of which will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority in year two post construction REASON: To ensure the impacts upon biodiversity are temporary.	YES Habitat Monitoring Plan, 11th November 2025, Wychwood Biodiversity

CEMP: The habitats identified and mapped along the cable laying route Option 2 in the approved Preliminary Ecological Assessment (30/05/2024, Wychwood Biodiversity) include g4 modified grassland, multiple field drains, a disused canal and the River Avon. It is also noted that the route passes adjacent to a wooded section of the National Cycle Network trail 403. Impacts to these habitats will be minimised using directional drilling. Appropriate ecological protection measures along this route (including sensitive timing, buffer zones and exclusion fencing) are sufficiently outlined. Further environmental protection measures for the protection of watercourses and water quality, will be secured through Conditions 6 and 8.

7 HMMP: The habitats identified and mapped for cable laying route Option 2 in the approved Preliminary Ecological Assessment (30/05/2024, Wychwood Biodiversity), including poor condition g4 modified grassland, are to be reinstated within 2 years of the project. The HMMP provides appropriate restoration, monitoring and adaptive management procedures.

Based on the information above I support the discharge of these conditions.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist: Patrick Olshansky	Date 09/01/2026
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