

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name: Mary Holmes MCIEEM

Date: 21/04/2026

Application No: PL/2025/09912

Proposal: Variation of Conditions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, 17, 21 and 22 of Planning Permission PL/2024/07438 - (To vary the wording of these conditions)
(conditions with implications for ecology highlighted in yellow above).

Site Address: Land near Minety Substation, Minety, SN16 9DX

Case Officer: Samantha Stockley

Recommendations:

☐	No Comment
☐	Support
☐	No objection
☐	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
☒	Objection - further information required
☐	Objection in principle
☐	HRA completed

Further Information Required

	Issue	Policy / Legislative compliance	Date information requested & Further information required	Satisfactorily addressed (Document & Date)
1.	Ecological Mitigation & Enhancement Plan	CP 50; NPPF	21/04/2026 Further information with respect to Badger, Dormouse, Great Crested Newts/watercourses/Trees to be detailed on the EMEP – see below.	NO

The outstanding document(s)/information listed above are needed to enable the council's ecology team to consider all the relevant impacts and benefits of the proposed scheme. The council's ecologists will provide a further response once all the above information has been submitted via the case officer.

Matters Considered:

Thank you for consulting me on the above application in relation to ecology. I have reviewed the submitted report detailed below against the previous consented 2024 application, mapping (OS and aerial), photographs of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and existing records of protected species.

The application is supported by:

Ecology Technical Note for Minety Solar Farm. (Pegasus Group, 21/11/2025).
S73 Detailed Planting Plan. Drwg. P23-0965_EN_03. (Pegasus Group, 16/07/2025).
Arboricultural Impact Assessment. Revision. (Barton Hyett Associates, September, 2025).
Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. (Avia Ecology, 20/08/2025).

This S73 application is submitted to make the 11 amendments to the approved Site Layout and Landscape Strategy due to requirements from the Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor. The only amendment relevant to ecology is Amendment 11 which is the removal of a small area of poor semi-improved and plantation woodland now purchased by National Grid to enable a substation expansion.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Although mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain does not apply to this Section 73 application, an updated biodiversity metric has been submitted to demonstrate that the proposed changes do not result in a reduction in biodiversity value when compared with the previously consented scheme. The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan has also been updated to reflect the changes.

Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan – Further Information Required

The revised Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP) illustrate the appropriate buffers to designated Ancient Woodland / Local Wildlife Sites and the adjacent Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

However, the following additional information is required before the submission can be fully assessed:

Badger

The EMEP does not identify the location of the Badger sett or the associated exclusion zone. While it is recognised that Badger sett locations are generally treated as confidential, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requires both the sett and its exclusion zone to be clearly marked on the Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. The LPA can apply confidential status to this drawing so that it is not made publicly available.

Dormouse

Dormouse have recently been confirmed as present within the site; however, the supporting 2025 survey information has not been submitted. Further detail is therefore required, including:

- the survey methodology used;
- the number of dormice recorded; and
- the locations of records, clearly marked on the Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan.

Great Crested Newts and Watercourses

The Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan should also include:

- the location of all ponds/ditches including those where Great Crested Newt have been confirmed;
- Great Crested Newt terrestrial buffers;
- Buffers to streams and other watercourses.

Trees

All mature, ancient and veteran trees, in particular T47, should be clearly identified on the Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP), together with their associated buffer/tree protection zones.

In addition, where trees are recorded as having potential bat roost features, their locations should also be marked on the EMEP to demonstrate that appropriate avoidance, protection, mitigation and management measures will be implemented.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date