



Ecology Team Consultation Response	
Date:	10.06.2026
Planning Ref:	4/26/2171/0B1
Description:	VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 2 (PLANS), 7 (BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN), 8 (MATERIALS), 9 (SOLAR PANELS), 10 (LANDSCAPING), AND 13 (OPERATION HOURS) OF PLANNING APPROVAL 4/24/2427/0B1.

This response pertains to Variation of Condition 7.

The Biodiversity Management Plan is to cover construction practices as the landscaping management post-construction. The County Ecologist accepts the BMP for the post-construction phase but cannot accept the Biodiversity Management Plan for the construction phase for the following reasons.

There has been no mention of breeding birds or the potential presence of small mammals, such as hedgehogs on site during the works and how to mitigate impacts to them. Below are the Precautionary Method of Works for breeding birds and small mammals.

Breeding Birds

Works should be completed outside of the breeding bird period (March – August inclusive). If this is not possible a breeding bird check should be carried out no more than 48 hours prior to the planned development to ensure no birds and their nests are present within habitat/buildings that may be directly or indirectly impacted. If active nests are discovered an appropriate buffer zone should be established and works within that area ceased until the young have naturally fledged.

Small Mammals

All development work should be carried out with care to avoid small mammals such as hedgehogs. Contractors should be briefed about the potential presence of small mammals and should adopt the following precautionary method of works:

- All work must take place during daylight hours.
- Should any trenches and excavations be required, an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.
- All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling. Back filling should be completed immediately after any excavations, ideally back filling as an on-going process to the work in hand.



Stored materials should be raised (i.e. stored on pallets) in order to ensure that wildlife such as hedgehogs do not shelter in the piles.