

Supporting Email – Ecology

17/04/2026

Ecology

- The BNG calculations were completed back in 2022, prior to BNG becoming mandatory in England (which came into effect Feb 2024), and so this wasn't a requirement for the submission. Baseline and Post-development UK Habitat Maps were therefore never drawn up at that time, although we have since produced several plans for the planning condition work, including a baseline UK Hab Map – I have attached a copy of this and it is also included in the HMMP/Biodiversity Net Gain Plan.
- We submitted unredacted versions of the LEMP and CEMP originally as part of the application, the '2026 WALOVER SURVEY NOTES & ANNOTATED PLAN' were separate appendices to be kept confidential all were submitted and should be accessible for the ecologist. Notwithstanding, I have merged them for ease of reference for the ecologist but due to file size they will need to be sent in a forthcoming email.
- We have also amended the HMMP/BNG Plan to address the comment regarding monitoring at 27 years – The HMMP does cover a 30-year period, although as it explains in the report, we set monitoring checks to align with the target condition scores for the various proposed habitats. Its quite confusing, but essentially in the BNG metric every habitat is automatically assigned a standard time for it to reach its 'target condition score'. For newly planted trees this is set at 27 years, with new modified grassland seeding set at 4 years, new other neutral grassland (buffers) seeding set at 5 years, and new hedgerow creation set at 10 years etc. Hence why monitoring checks were proposed at 4, 5, 10 & 27 years.
- Regarding the comments on the landscape masterplan, we have now referred to the grassland below the panels as 'modified grassland', removing 'species rich'. In all of the ecology reports the proposed grassland seeding beneath the solar panels (EM3 General Purpose Meadow Mixture) as 'modified grassland'. The updated plan will be submitted in a forthcoming email due to file size.