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To: [Development Management](#)
Subject: Planning application 25/01135/DOC Hanson Springs
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Hi Claire

Thank you for consulting the GMEU.

I have restricted my response to conditions 8, 10 & 11.

Condition 8 – Badger Method Statement

A method statement has been provided. I am satisfied that this is adequate. The prior to part of condition 8 can be discharged.

Condition 10 – Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

An HMMP has been provided. The defra template has not been utilised but given the low number of units involved, this is reasonable. Whilst technically adequate to meet the requirements of the condition, I have concerns that achieving good condition for a relatively small area of other neutral grassland is high risk as it will require a minimum of 5 out of 6 target condition criteria to be met including criteria A, a typical example of its type. Given they intend to resow, this in particular may be difficult to achieve. I note also that if they only target moderate condition they fail to achieve 10% net gain with a 0.06 unit loss, which is difficult to achieve by for instance additional tree planting.

Given the risk of failure would only result in a very small off-site purchase being required and the need to resubmit to discharge the statutory biodiversity gain condition, I am satisfied that no further information is required at this time and that future monitoring will determine whether I am correct and off-site purchase or amended on-site habitat proposals required.

I recommend that prior to resubmission for discharge of the statutory condition, they review whether or not it may be better to look to purchase the very small number of off-site units that may be required rather than being tied to a 30 yr management plan for a potentially high risk habitat.

Condition 11 – Habitat Enhancement of Wildlife

I have no issues with the proposed bird and bat box proposals. The prior to part of condition 11 can be discharged.

David Dutton

Ecologist

Planning and Transportation

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