

Carlos Chikwamba

From: Megan Belanger
Sent: 18 September 2025 10:50
To: Carlos Chikwamba
Subject: RE: Ecology Consultation Response 25/01346/OUT
Attachments: Re: Ecology Consultation Response 25/01346/OUT [CJO-WORKSITE.FID379125]

Hi Carlos,

The updated bat surveys confirm that trees with bat roost potential will need to be soft-felled. The walkover survey indicates that site conditions remain unchanged, and therefore the bat population is expected to be consistent with earlier surveys. This is sufficient, and we can secure the soft-felling requirement through a condition for a CEMP – which should include updated surveys if enough time passes before works commence.

The breeding bird surveys identify two skylark territories but conclude that compensation isn't necessary due to the abundance of open space in the wider area. While this isn't fully aligned with guidance - which generally expects compensation for lost territories - on balance, specific skylark compensation is likely to be disproportionate in this case. The site proposals include enhancements for a wide range of other bird species, resulting in an overall net gain in suitable bird habitat. As such, we can accept the justifications provided in the 'Response to Cherwell District Council Ecology Comments (ref 25/01346/OUT) Report Ref: AE0035.CDC.Response.August 2025.vf1'.

My BNG concerns have been addressed (see attached email). The plans are indicative, but we will expect a finalised metric, plans, and BNG report once the layout is finalised. **We will need a legal agreement to secure a HMMP and monitoring fees.**

Please ensure the conditions provided on the NatureSpace certificate are attached verbatim. We will also need conditions for a CEMP for Biodiversity (to include a reptile RAMMS, soft-felling for bats, and other recommendations in the ecology reports), a Lighting Strategy, precommencement surveys for badgers, a LEMP, and a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP).

Kind Regards,

Megan Belanger
Consultant Senior Ecologist
Email: Megan.Belanger@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk
Cherwell District Council
www.cherwell.gov.uk

From: Megan Belanger
Sent: 05 September 2025 15:29
To: Carlos Chikwamba <Carlos.Chikwamba@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Ecology Consultation Response 25/01346/OUT

Hi Carlos,

We received a consultation request for this application yesterday – however, I can't see that any of my comments have been addressed (see email below). Am I missing something or have these not been addressed yet?

The only thing I can see that relates to ecology is an email from NatureSpace confirming payment for the GCN DL. However, I can't see that a NatureSpace report or certificate has been submitted by the applicants – which will be required to progress the application forward. The certificate will have the conditions for GCN that need to go on the decision notice.

Kind Regards,

Megan Belanger

Consultant Senior Ecologist

Email: Megan.Belanger@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Cherwell District Council

www.cherwell.gov.uk

From: Megan Belanger

Sent: 02 June 2025 10:41

To: Carlos Chikwamba <Carlos.Chikwamba@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>

Cc: DC Support <DC.Support@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>

Subject: Ecology Consultation Response 25/01346/OUT

Dear Carlos,

Application No: 25/01346/OUT

Proposal: Outline planning application with All Matters Reserved (except means of access) for up to 340 dwellings (Use Class C3), land for local community use and pavilion, landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure, including demolition of 162 The Moors to enable all modes access

Address: Part OS Parcel 0006 North Of The Moors Kidlington

Biodiversity Net Gain

The application will be subject to the Biodiversity Gain Condition and therefore must demonstrate a 10% net gain in habitats. The application is supported by an old version of the BNG metric (4.0), which is not acceptable. The statutory metric must be used to demonstrate BNG and should be submitted to support this application.

There is a pond on site which is not included in the BNG metric. All baseline habitats within the redline boundary must be included in the metric. Additionally, the updated technical note (Aurochs Ecology Ltd) includes several revisions to onsite habitats which should be reflected in the metric. For example, the mixed scrub in the south should be changed to broadleaved woodland.

There do not appear to be any BNG scale plans submitted, so I am unable to cross reference the habitats shown in the metric with the site plans. Habitat plans, showing the baseline and proposed habitats using the UKhab classifications, must be submitted.

The Illustrative Landscape Plan shows that there is some species rich grassland proposed in small strips across the site, alongside the hedgerows and developed land. It seems unreasonable to assume that this grassland will represent a 'good example of its habitat type' - which is required to achieve moderate condition. How will these areas be managed and how will it be assured that these small strips of grassland will have a high number of indicator species, have little disturbance, maintain a varied sward, etc, in line with the conditions assessment criteria? It is unreasonable to expect this to be created and maintained for 30yrs. It is more likely that these areas will have a lot of disturbance from bikes/pedestrians/dogs and will be more accurately described as modified grassland. As such, the metric should be amended to reflect a more realistic habitat type.

The significant on-site habitat creation/enhancement requires that we to enter into a s.106 agreement to secure a HMMP and monitoring fees.

Species

The ongoing breeding bird surveys and bat surveys must be completed, and the results submitted to the LPA, prior to a decision being made on the application. This is so that impacts, constraints, and mitigation requirements can be fully assessed.

The Ecological Assessment mentions that a GCN district level licence will be obtained, due to the presence of GCN on site. A Nature Space certificate must be submitted to demonstrate that they have been accepted onto the scheme. The certificate will include a condition which must be attached to any granted permission.

We will likely require a CEMP for Biodiversity (to include a reptile RAMMS, soft-felling for bats, and other recommendations in the ecology reports), a Lighting Strategy, pre-commencement surveys for badgers, a LEMP, and a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP).

However, until the above is addressed, I have an objection.

Megan Belanger

Consultant Senior Ecologist

Email: Megan.Belanger@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Cherwell District Council

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