

GWENT FARMERS' COMMUNITY SOLAR PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

Company number 08591067

Prif Swyddog Cynllunio
Tîm y Dwyrain
Adfywio a Datblygu Economaidd
Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd

Principal Planning Officer
East Team
Regeneration and Economic Development
Newport City Council

Sent by email to Geraint.roberts@newport.gov.uk

31 July 2026

Dear Geraint,

Re: Revised Landscape & Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) submitted under contingency measures required under Condition 14 (Ecological Monitoring & Contingency) of Permission 18/1201 for the ERECTION OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY HUB WITH A NET INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY AND MAXIMUM EXPORT TO GRID OF 49.9MW AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPING

Please find the revised Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) attached for Llanwern Solar Farm, submitted in support of the further discharge of Condition 14 (Ecological Monitoring and Contingency).

As requested, this cover letter outlines the purpose of the revised LEMP and summarises the changes made following the Year 5 Monitoring review.

Purpose of the Revised LEMP

The revised LEMP has been prepared to:

- Replace the previous LEMP and Lapwing Management Plan, setting out a new management framework for the next five years (Year 6-10).
- Provide clear details on the management activities required to ensure that retained and newly established habitats are maintained and managed in line with realistic and appropriate objectives.
- Set out a timetable for delivering the management activities.
- Update and refine the monitoring and contingency measures from the Ecological Monitoring and Contingency Plan (Green Ecology, 2019a), ensuring the plan can be adjusted as needed to support the objectives of the LEMP.

Key Changes

The Year 5 Monitoring results have informed changes to the LEMP, moving from a largely fixed management plan to an adaptive management approach for Years 6–10, incorporating measurable targets, monitoring triggers and corrective actions.

Grassland Management within the Solar Arrays

Monitoring found swards were too short, floral diversity was low, and pollinator resources were limited. As a result, grazing and mowing restrictions have tightened, including removing sheep during key flowering periods and preventing mowing outside 1m panel buffers between April and September to create structurally diverse sward and increase grassland value as an ecological resource.

Shrill Carder Bee and Common Crane Habitat

Crane and shrill carder bee habitat progressed towards target conditions, with 63 shrill carder bees recorded in 2025. Surveys demonstrated that spear thistle and clover species were important forage species, leading to revised management that actively retains thistles unless they affect panel performance.

A trial strip-cutting approach will be implemented into one field in Mitigation Area 2 to create a more diverse sward structure and increase foraging habitat. This management approach will be monitored and refined based on survey results.

Lapwing Mitigation

Whilst breeding lapwing were not recorded within the designated Lapwing Mitigation Area, the species continued to utilise the wider site, with successful breeding confirmed in adjacent habitats. The mitigation area remains under appropriate management in accordance with the LEMP and supports overwintering use by lapwing. However, prolonged

dry conditions may be reducing habitat suitability for breeding pairs. Consequently, the revised LEMP includes additional adaptive management measures, including reinstatement of historic grips to increase habitat wetness and improve foraging conditions. These measures are intended to respond to observed site conditions and support the ongoing effectiveness of the mitigation area for lapwing, recognising that habitat suitability may change over time in response to wider environmental factors, including climatic conditions.

Hedgerows, Reens and Ditches

Monitoring showed positive improvements in habitat condition, connectivity, aquatic vegetation diversity, and watercourse quality. Existing management objectives have been retained, but clearer targets and management schedules have been set.

Herbicide and Pesticide Use

There will be no application of pesticides, and herbicide should only be used as a last resort and where absolutely necessary. Before any herbicide is applied, a permit and SSSI consent must be obtained from NRW.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework

The monitoring framework has been strengthened through the introduction of formal success criteria, adaptive management triggers and actions, and a clearer long-term monitoring programme. This will enable management practices to be reviewed and refined where monitoring identifies that objectives are being partially achieved or where additional measures are required.

Overall Conclusion

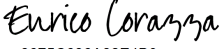
The Year 5 review concluded that most ecological measures were either successful or progressing positively, particularly for shrill carder bees, water voles, common crane habitat, hedgerows and aquatic habitats. The main areas identified for further improvement were solar array grassland management and lapwing mitigation, leading to revisions in the Years 6–10 LEMP to create a more adaptive, evidence-led management approach.

We consider that the revised LEMP satisfies the requirements of Condition 14 by setting out appropriate and site-specific ecological monitoring, management, and contingency measures for the next five-year period. We therefore request Newport City Council's written confirmation that this document be approved. Given the seasonal nature of several of the proposed management activities, we would be grateful if approval could be provided by the

end of August to ensure that key management actions can be planned, scheduled and implemented within the appropriate ecological timeframes.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Enrico Corazza

SPV Director