

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: Further discharge of Condition 14 (Ecological monitoring and contingency) of permission 18/1201 (large solar farm) in relation to year 5 monitoring

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June 2026 regarding the submitted *Ecological Monitoring Report - Year 5*, which was provided in support of the discharge of Condition 14.

Following receipt of Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) comments, the monitoring report has been revised to provide the additional clarification requested. As agreed, the revised Year 6 –10 LEMP has also been submitted alongside the monitoring report under Condition 14.

Gwent Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

With regard to the consent baselines, we have not included the additional grassland habitat table as suggested by NRW. The 2017 baseline was formally approved as a mixture of improved and semi-improved grassland as part of the consent and forms the basis of the site's mitigation, management and habitat delivery requirements. As such, we do not consider the proposed additional table to be necessary and have therefore not incorporated it into the revised document.

The northwestern section of Area 3 shown within Appendix 3, Figure 1 of the monitoring report was not included within the planning permission boundary or lease area. This figure was therefore outdated and has been removed. The current site extent is now accurately reflected within Figure 1 - Ecological Features and Habitat.

Otters and Water Voles

The otter section in Table 7 of the monitoring report has been updated to confirm that no artificial otter holts have been installed to date.

The revised LEMP now includes the following commitment:

'Artificial otter holts have not been installed within the site. Two artificial otter holts will be installed within the Solar Array Area with locations to be confirmed with the management team, in close consultation with NRW and subject to any necessary consents, licenses or approvals being obtained.'

Dormice/Hedgerows

Section 5.4.3 of the monitoring report has been updated to provide further clarification. As discussed during both site meetings, limited hedgerow removal may be required in the future to facilitate ditch maintenance works and prevent shading of watercourses.

Table 6 within the revised LEMP has also been updated as requested to reflect dormouse breeding seasons and to confirm that hedgerows will be maintained at a height of 3m and width of 2m, whilst allowing them to continue to establish and develop.

Lapwing

Following further review and interpretation of the monitoring data, several updates have been made to the Year 5 monitoring report to provide further clarity and ensure the findings, analysis and management recommendations are accurately reflected. Whilst these amendments were not specifically requested by NRW, they incorporate additional context. The overall conclusions and recommendations remain unchanged.

Draft Revised LEMP

As discussed via email correspondence on 8 June 2026, the revised LEMP has been submitted alongside the Year 5 Monitoring Report under Condition 14 (Ecological Monitoring and Contingency) of Permission 18/1201.

In accordance with this request, a covering letter has also been provided which includes a summary table detailing the changes that have been made to the LEMP and the rationale for each change, with cross-references to the findings of the monitoring report.

Furthermore, and as requested in your letter, both the monitoring report and revised LEMP have been provided as a tracked changes version and a clean version, with all changes accepted to assist with the review process.

We trust the revised Ecological Monitoring Report, alongside the revised LEMP, addresses NRW's comments and provides the clarification requested. We would welcome any further discussions, if required, regarding the discharge of Condition 14 and approval of the revised LEMP.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Enrico Corazza

SPV Director