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Planning Applications Manager  
High Peak Borough Council  
Planning Department  
Municipal Buildings  
Glossop  
Derbyshire  
SK13 8AF

**For the attention of Rachael Simpkin**

Your Ref: HPK/2023/0442

Our ref: DWTHPK713d

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Rachael,

**Proposal: Proposed solar array, supporting energy infrastructure and associated site works incorporating, access, security fencing and landscape planting**

**Location: Carpenter Plc, Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate, Dinting, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6LE**

**Application Ref No: HPK/2023/0442**

With reference to the above application, I am responding as the Biodiversity Planning Officer responsible for work relating to the Service Level Agreement, which the High Peak Borough Council and the Trust have signed. The following comments are aimed at providing accurate and up to date information on the nature conservation issues associated with the proposed development.

## Response

Since our response dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024, an Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Rev. A) has been produced. We have no concerns about the location of the hedgerow on the outer



perimeter or the boundary tree planting. However, it is not clear why the hedgerow 'dips in' to the site in the north, rather than following the perimeter fence round. Is this to follow the red line boundary? It would make more ecological sense to plant the hedgerow around the existing perimeter, than lose more grassland. Furthermore, it is unclear why the fence line juts out to the north-west and does not just follow the area of solar panels.

We acknowledge the native planting mix for the hedgerow and trees but advise that downy birch and either goat willow or grey willow are incorporated, to suit the wet conditions of the site and to support invertebrates. We appreciate this detail could be tweaked at the condition stage.

I can see that the wet grassland mix we recommended has been specified for areas which require overseeding.

Our main concern is regarding the area marked as N1, as it will result in further loss of the marshy grassland. This should not be marked as ecological enhancement on the landscape plan, as there is no ecological reason why this is required and it will further erode the integrity of the marshy grassland, which is the feature we are trying to retain and enhance. It would seem that it has been added for landscape screening purposes, however if the hedgerow is planted along the perimeter, and managed to a height of 2 m as indicated, this would surely screen the site from the footpath. Standard trees are proposed in the hedgerow and the site slopes downwards from the footpath, further reducing the visual impact. We would strongly advise that this element is removed from proposals.

The metric and the BNG Assessment have been updated to include the proposed hedgerow, trees and N1 planting. Gains have increased marginally to +1.35 habitat units (11.67%), however a 10% gain would still be achieved without the addition of the mixed scrub (N1).

The comments in our previous letter are all still applicable, along with the recommended conditions. We would draw your attention to the recommendation for gates in the new fencing to avoid a reduction in foraging area. These could be secured via separate condition or included in the CEMP: Biodiversity.

It is hoped that the information provided is helpful to the Council. If you require any further information or wish to discuss any of the comments made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Duggan-Jones MBiolSci MCIEEM

Biodiversity Planning Officer

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**Endnote:**

Please see our planning pages <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/planning> for ecological advice on submitting a planning application, finding an ecological consultant and information on mitigation and enhancement.