

Officer Liz Anderson – Ecologist
Date 07/07/2026

Ref: 26/01416/S73
Att: Anne McDonald

**Land To The West Of Tuthill Manor, Kelshall Tops, Therfield, Hertfordshire,
Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 24/02606/FP granted
31.07.2025 for erection of three detached dwellings (1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed and 1 x 5-bed) and
with associated infrastructure and landscaping.**

Consultee comments;

Having considered the proposed amendments there would be no ecological objection to the proposal. Conditions would be required as follows;

Biodiversity Method Statement

No development shall take place (including any ground works, site clearance) until a Biodiversity Method Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Statement shall be informed by the November 2024 Ecological Assessment Report and include the following:

- a) Review of site potential and constraints.*
- b) Details of any necessary working methods to prevent harm to wildlife.*
- c) Type and source of materials to be used where appropriate.*
- d) Persons responsible for implementing the works.*

Ecological Enhancements

No development shall take place until an Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) for the creation of new wildlife features such as hibernacula, the inclusion of integrated bird/bat and bee boxes in buildings/structures, as informed by the November 2024 Ecological Assessment Report, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The case officer should note Biodiversity Gain condition wording should be added to the decision notice, the biodiversity gain condition is a pre-commencement condition having its own separate statutory basis and is deemed to apply to every planning permission granted for the development of land in England. To ensure the applicant is clear about this distinction the biodiversity gain condition should not be included in the list of conditions imposed in the written notice when granting planning permission but should remain separate.

Biodiversity Net Gain

*The effect of paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is that planning permission granted for the development of land in England is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition “(the biodiversity gain condition)” that **development may not begin** unless:*

- (a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and*
- (b) the planning authority has approved the plan.*

The planning authority, for the purposes of determining whether to approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan if one is required in respect of this permission would be North Herts Council.

There are statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements which mean that the biodiversity gain condition does not always apply.

Based on the information available this permission is considered to be one which will require the approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development is begun because none of the statutory exemptions or transitional arrangements are considered to apply.

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

The development shall not commence until a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), prepared in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority and including;

- (a) a non-technical summary;*
- (b) the roles and responsibilities of the people or organisation(s) delivering the HMMP;*
- (c) the planned habitat creation and enhancement works in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan;*
- (d) the management measures to maintain habitat in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan for a period of 30 years from the completion of development;*
- (e) the monitoring methodology and frequency in respect of the created or enhanced habitat to be submitted to the local planning authority.*

The agreed measures are to be implemented on site prior to the first occupation of the first dwellinghouse hereby approved and the habitats shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved HMMP for a period of no less than 30 years following completion of the development.