

## **Response to updates received 09/02 RE Lawrences Lane Thatcham**

This report letter has been written in response to amendments to the biodiversity metric and further comment on these changes received on the 9th of February 2023. The below is intended to clarify our stance on the amendments made and if these have addressed any objections raised in our original rebuttal.

Please note that this is only relevant to the comments in section E of the original rebuttal, titled Biodiversity Net Gain. No updates to any other documents have been provided, therefore the remainder of the rebuttal remains unaffected.

### **Fully Addressed**

The inclusion of condition assessment sheets for habitats is appreciated and this comment can be considered addressed.

### **Partially Addressed**

We also acknowledge and appreciate the amendment with regards to the amount of neutral grassland present onsite. This has now been changed to 5328m<sup>2</sup>, rather than the original value of 7042m<sup>2</sup>. This has not, however, been reported in the accompanying document stating updates to the metric. There has also been no explanation provided as to where the previous value originated from, which should have been included in the accompanying document.

Some assessor comments are now given in the appropriate box in the metric, which helps provide context to the reason behind habitat types and management prescriptions to achieve the proposed conditions of habitats. Although this somewhat addresses the ecology comment on further detail being provided within the metric, A short report has still not been provided with the biodiversity metric. The report provided alongside the updates is not regarded as a short report as it is clarifying the changes made and not the original scope of the biodiversity net gain metric.

### **Not Addressed**

The following comments have not been addressed in these updates:

- Lack of provision for amenity use in the proposed development.
- No comments have been provided to justify the level of strategic significance given to all habitats onsite both pre and post development.

To conclude, these updates represent positive changes towards addressing the comments made in our original rebuttal. Despite this, the majority of the conclusions of our rebuttal remain unchanged, as none of the species-related comments have been addressed. The biodiversity net gain comments in paragraph 23 and 24 have been partially addressed, however, all remaining comments still stand. Further information is still required in order to fully assess the impacts of this development.

Further clarification is required on the remaining comments before the biodiversity metric calculation can be accepted including any claimed biodiversity net gain.

Please read this document in collaboration with the original rebuttal. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

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On behalf of West Berkshire County Council.