

GMEU response

Biodiversity Net Gain

Amendments to the metric in-line with my previous recommendations have occurred. There is now a 0.86 unit deficit of area-based units. Whilst I have not fully cross-checked the tree retention and losses, given minor changes could still occur to the landscape plan with only very minor consequences, no further issues at this stage, with any further amendments dealt with at discharge of the statutory biodiversity gain condition and production of a habitat management and monitoring plan.

The urban tree planting and enhancement of the woodland would be regarded as significant by defra. Technically so would the enhancement of mixed scrub but given this only yields 0.06 units, I have no strong views on whether it is included within a 30 year HMMP.

The significant habitat creation/enhancement yields 1.75 units, within the grey area based on GM guidance whether or not the HMMP should be controlled via section 106 or standard condition. Whilst the urban tree planting is relatively risk free, the enhancement of the woodland will require more intervention and monitoring. Therefore, on balance I would cover the HMMP with a section 106. However, the final decision is for the LPA.

With regards discharge of the statutory biodiversity gain condition they will need to provide:

- The biodiversity gain plan on the defra template,
- Have registered the off-site purchase of units with defra,
- The final version of the statutory metric with their sections of the start page completed and
- The final version of the HMMP.

Ecologist

Planning and Transportation