

Thank you for consulting the GMEU.

Condition 4 – Nesting Birds

A check for nesting birds occurred in May. If the scrub has already been cleared then the condition can be discharged. If still present the condition still applies as the nesting bird check is no longer valid. We are however within a couple of weeks of no nesting bird check being required.

Condition 5 – Biodiversity Gain Plan

A gain plan has been provided. There are however a number of minor issues:

Section 1.2 has the wrong application number. It should be 71043

Sections 2.7 & 3.7 will need signing.

Section 4.7 & 4.8 – This should be yes with mixed scrub deemed significant, hence the need for an HMMP.

Sections 6.4 & 6.5 will need cross referencing with final version of the Statutory metric at discharge of the statutory biodiversity gain plan.

As all of the above are minor technical issues and the biodiversity gain plan will require resubmission at discharge of the statutory biodiversity gain condition, I have no issues with condition 5 being discharged, with amendments provided at discharge of the statutory biodiversity condition stage.

Condition 6 – HMMP

I note that grazing is going to continue in the field where shrub planting is proposed. Whilst not opposed to this, there is no reference to protection during establishment. I.e. temporary fencing. It would be a very high risk strategy not to protect during establishment. I therefore recommend that prior to discharge, measures to deal with grazing pressure are added in to the HMMP.