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| **Consultation Response from KC, Ecology Unit** |
| **2026/91308 Pog Hall Barn, Penistone Road, High Flatts, Huddersfield, HD8 8XU** |
| **Erection of photovoltaic array (within a Conservation Area)** |
| **Date Responded: 09/07/2026**<br>**Responding Officer: Z. Hanshaw**<br>**Responding Ref: 2607/19** |

Good afternoon,

I have reviewed the application form submitted with this development and the Biodiversity Net Gain 'de minimus' exemption applied is not applicable to this development. There is currently conflicting guidance with regards to how solar panels can be attributed within the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric, and land beneath ground-mounted solar arrays can in some situations sustain a habitat that contributes to the post development biodiversity value but will face physical limits on the type and condition it can reliably achieve. It is therefore considered that the installation of the solar array may lead to a degradation of the habitats onsite. The de minimis exemption only applies where <25m$^2$ of habitat is to be impacted. As the solar array is 250m$^2$, this is clearly not the case.

A Biodiversity Net Gain metric should be submitted in support of this application.