

**Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit**

2026/92339 former, Almondbury High School, Fernside Avenue, Huddersfield, HD5 8PQ

Discharge of details reserved by conditions 3 (CEMP: Biodiversity), 4 (HMMP), 5 (kitchen interceptor), 10 (cycle storage), 11 (CEMP), BNG on previous permission 2024/91998 for erection of special educational needs and disabilities school (use class F1), comprising educational buildings, roof mounted photo-voltaic panels, sensory garden space, multi-use games areas, landscaping, hardstanding areas, carparking, access with secure fencing and associated ancillary development

Date Responded: 04/09/2026

Responding Officer: Z. Hanshaw

Responding Ref: 2609/10

I have reviewed the information submitted with this application for the discharge of conditions 3, 4 and the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan. These are as follows:

3. No works shall take place until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP Biodiversity shall include the following:

- a) Summary of potentially damaging activities*
- b) Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"*
- c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (these may be provided as a set of method statements)*
- d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features*
- e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works*
- f) Responsible persons and lines of communication*
- g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person*
- h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs*

The approved CEMP: Biodiversity shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

4. The development shall not commence until a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (the HMMP) has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The HMMP shall be prepared in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan and include:

- 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 to create or improve habitat to achieve the biodiversity net gain 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; and*
- e) The monitoring methodology and frequency in respect of the created or enhanced habitat is to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Notice in writing shall be given to the Council when the:

- 1) HMMP has been implemented; and*
- 2) Habitat creation and enhancement works as set out in the HMMP have been completed.*

Within 12 months of the development being in use:

- 1) The habitat creation and enhancement works set out in the approved HMMP have been completed; and*

- 2) *A completion report, evidencing the completed habitat enhancements, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- 3) *The created and/or enhanced habitat specified in the approved HMMP shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved HMMP."*

Biodiversity Net Gain Plan:

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states 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 Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity (Kier, June 2026) details that the site has been remediated prior to the submission of this application, and is predominately hard standing. There is therefore a very low likelihood that protected or priority species will be impacted as part of the construction. The Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity identifies some potentially damaging activities, biodiversity protection zones, and some practical measures to reduce impacts during construction. As there is very limited habitat onsite, an ECoW will be required only at commencement to establish the tree protection zones, and an ACoW will be onsite if any additional tree removal is required, though none is currently proposed. Section F identifies the lines of communication and responsible persons. Although the Construction Environmental Management Plan: Biodiversity does not focus on practical measures aimed at preventing harm to wildlife during the construction phase, such as including ramps or covering excavations, given the existing habitats onsite and site boundaries, these are considered unnecessary in this instance. This condition can therefore be discharged.

The Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (Lucien, July 2026) details the scheme will retain 32 existing trees and 0.07ha of modified grassland, while creating 168 new trees, 0.07ha of introduced shrub planting, 0.37ha of modified grassland, 0.23ha of other neutral grassland, 0.58ha of mixed scrub and 431m of native hedgerow. Section 3 of the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan details the creation and management approaches to the created and retained habitats with reference to the Biodiversity Net Gain condition assessment sheets. The report details that the habitat creation and landscaping will be implemented by Kier Construction Limited during construction, with ongoing management and maintenance transferred to Woodley School & College as following completion of construction. Section 4 details that monitoring will be undertaken in Years 2, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 30 after completion and monitoring reports will be submitted to the Council in the Autumn of each year. Therefore, I am satisfied that the contents of the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan meet criteria a-e of the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan condition. As mentioned in condition 4 further information on the commencement and completion of the habitat delivery works is required to fully discharge condition 4.

The submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Plan confirms that biodiversity gain will be delivered entirely on-site through habitat creation and green infrastructure, with no reliance on off-site units or statutory credits. The site's biodiversity value will increase from 9.63 to 11.99 area habitat units, representing a net gain of 2.36 units or 24.46%, while also creating 0.83 hedgerow units. This is validated by the contents of the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Metric. I am therefore satisfied that the Biodiversity Net Gain condition can be discharged.