

## **1. Matter 6 Development Management Policies**

### ***General Matters; 30, Consistency with the NPPF and Core Strategy***

#### ***1.1 Draft Policy DM5, Part 7. Ecology***

We note that a 'mitigation hierarchy' is included in this policy which requires that impacts on biodiversity are avoided, mitigated against, or compensated for (in that order). It should also be recognising that where satisfactory compensation cannot be secured, then permission should not be granted. In this context, the use of compensation in general, and offsetting specifically, must be a last resort, where it has not been possible to firstly avoid impacts, or secondly to provide sufficient mitigation. We feel that the following wording provides greater clarity and should be included in the policy:

- **Avoid negative ecological impacts, especially those that could be significant;**
- **Reduce negative impacts that cannot be avoided, and as a last resort;**
- **Compensate for any remaining significant negative ecological impacts**

The NPPF states 'Where safeguards are necessary to make a particular development acceptable in planning terms (such as environmental mitigation or compensation), the development should not be approved if the measures required cannot be secured through appropriate conditions or agreement (Paragraph 176).

Yours sincerely,

#### **Original Document Signed**

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