

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00135/FUL
ADDRESS	Poplar Farm Sheepy Road Sibson Nuneaton Leicestershire CV13 6LE
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Farm track to join Poplars and Manor Farms to the north of Sibson village
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sullivan Archer
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Karley Khan
DATE OF COMMENTS	20 March 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Small Sites Metric (SSM) (dated 14/11/2025)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	✓
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
Upon review of the above SSM, as well as the Landscape Statement (dated 17/11/2025), Location Plan (dated 12/02/2026), Block Plan (no ref) and Application Form, we require some additional information/clarification in order to assess the likely impact of the development on ecology and biodiversity. Details of further information required in order to determine this application are detailed below: <i>BNG SSM;</i> The suitability of using the SSM should be considered as the redline boundary provided is located within 500m of Priority Habitat 'Deciduous Woodland'. This is stated in the SSM User Guide '<i>If statutory protected sites or priority habitats are located within 500m of the development site boundary, you should consider whether you need to contact an ecologist and use the SBMCT</i>'. The SBMCT is the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool. Furthermore, the SSM can only be used where 'no European protected species are present'. Holding objection for confirmation as to whether the SSM is suitable to use, with supporting ecological information/evidence provided.	

- We also require clarification on the site area as the area within the Application Form does not align with the area within the SSM. **Holding objection for clarification on the site area.**

The results of the above will determine whether the use of the SSM is appropriate (see points below).

- Should the above information confirm the SSM can be used, further clarification on the competency of the person completing the SSM and decision making when inputting into the SSM is requested. The competent person should have the 'knowledge and skills' to complete and review the SSM, as well as evidencing metric decisions in the 'user comments' column.
- Should use of the SSM be deemed suitable, the proposed habitat type will need to be reviewed as this is currently entered as 'arable field margins pollen and nectar'. However, based on proposed materials and description within the Landscape Statement and Application Form, the proposed access does not need the definition of the habitat in Table 1b.
- **Should use of the SSM be deemed suitable, a holding objection for information that the person completing the metric meets the competency requirements, the 'user comments' be completed where necessary and either justification for the proposed habitat be provided or the SSM updated.**

OR

- Should it not be appropriate to use the SSM, an assessment of the site and proposals will need to be undertaken using the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric. **Holding objection for an assessment to be undertaken using the SBMCT, with this submitted along with suitable report/plan(s).**

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- TBC

ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:

- TBC

IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY:

(Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)

- N/A

PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT BASELINE FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)

THIS IS THE MINIMUM NATIONAL ESSENTIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS (PPG paragraph 11) AND MUST BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO DETERMINATION:

Confirmation that development is subject to statutory biodiversity gain condition	N
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	N
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	Y
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	N
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	N

Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: “Competent person” information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	N
BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	Y

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)	
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT ESSENTIAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO DETERMINATION. Post-development information is indicative only ; final proposals must be confirmed at Biodiversity Gain Plan statutory condition stage.	
ON-SITE SIGNIFICANT* BNG is proposed (If Y, please see later table)	TBC
OFF-SITE APPLICANT-OWNED BNG is proposed (ie. Land shown on plan within the “blue line” boundary and inserted in “offsite” tab of statutory metric)	TBC
PLEASE NOTE: Where applicant-owned off-site or significant on-site BNG proposals are present, these should be secured and monitored for 30 years. The determining authority is responsible for monitoring for compliance.	
OFF-SITE PURCHASE** of BNG	
BNG units purchase from a third party to achieve 10% BNG uplift	TBC
Statutory biodiversity credits	TBC
PLEASE NOTE**: Where purchased BNG units are proposed, any purchased units from the national register are secured and monitored for 30 years by conservation covenant, separately from this planning application process.	

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: *TYPE OF SIGNIFICANT ON-SITE HABITAT PROPOSED: (using the current government definition ¹)		
SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness		
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness		
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area		

Note for applicants: Please be aware that this advice is provided to the Local Planning Authority through a Service Level Agreement between the Local Planning Authority and Leicestershire County Council Ecology Team. Its purpose is to discharge the legal duties of the determining authority under The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations (2000), Regulations 4.

If you have any queries about the content, please correspond directly with the Planning Officer assigned to the planning application or discharge of condition application. We are unable to respond

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer#significant-on-site-enhancements>

directly to applicant enquiries regarding the advice that we have provided to the determining authority.

The following legislation is used to assist in the assessment of planning applications:

Legislation source	Reference
National Planning Policy Framework	Paragraphs relevant to biodiversity, biodiversity net gain, ecological connectivity and protected species
Environment Act 2021	Mandatory Net Gain Biodiversity Duty Local Nature Recovery Strategy
District or Borough Local Plan and supporting SPD's	Local Plan policy
ODPM circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Requirement for species survey work and mitigation recommendations to be carried out prior to the determination of a planning application. Paras. 98 and 99
NERC Act 2006	Biodiversity Duty (see also Environment Act 2021) Section 41, habitats and species of Principal Importance (previously BAP)
Various International, European and National laws in relation to the protection of species and habitats	International and national site protection: Ramsar sites (from Ramsar Convention), Habitat and Birds Directives (Natura 2000 sites include SAC's and SPA's), SSSI's, National Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves. Habitats and Species protection: Habitat and Species Regulations (protected sites and species). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended including special Schedule 1), Natural England Standing Advice. Badger Act.

