

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	24/00239/FUL
ADDRESS	Elmsdale House 23 Ratcliffe Lane Sheepy Magna Atherstone Leicestershire CV9 3QY
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Ground based Solar Photovoltaic panels and associated works
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Satbir Jandu
DEPARTMENT	
	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	
	Dale Devereaux
DATE OF COMMENTS	
	10/04/2024
SUMMARY RESPONSE:	
No comment	
No objection	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	
Condition recommended	
Informative recommended	
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED:	
- The proposed solar panels are sited on an area of existing access track, un-maintained tall forbs, and buildings that have been demolished. - These buildings were found to be negligible for roosting bats in the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) carried out by RICS in February 2022. - The native hedgerow to the north is to be retained, therefore, the impact on local biodiversity will be negligible, and no further surveys are required. - The proposed new boundary hedgerow should be planted with native species. There is also opportunity to sow wildflower meadow below the solar panels. - As this is a small development, with a limited impact on ecology, it is not proportionate to condition, or request native planting schemes prior to determination, however, I recommend the below native planting informative is attached to any permission.	
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) specific comments:	
N/A	
FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED:	
N/A	

AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED:
N/A
RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
N/A
RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
All new planting should be composed of native species. Recommended hedging species mix: 80% hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), plus any one or more of the following: field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>), dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>) and holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>). Suitable native meadow mix such as Emorsgate EM3 should be sown under solar panels. Advice on managing solar farms for biodiversity can be found in the below document: https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/downloads/realising-the-biodiversity-potential-of-solar-farms.pdf
RECOMMENDED SECTION 106 REQUIREMENT (standard clause, contribution amount, trigger for payment)
N/A
DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)
N/A

Note for applicants: Please be aware that this specialist advice is provided to the Local Planning Authority through a Service Level Agreement between the Local Planning Authority and Leicestershire County Council.

If you have any queries about this advice, please correspond directly with the Planning Officer assigned to the planning application or discharge of condition application. We are unable to respond directly to applicant enquiries regarding the advice that we have provided as part of this service.

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

Legislation source	Reference
NPPF Dec 2023	Paras 8, 180, 181, 185, 186, 187, 188
Environment Act 2021	Mandatory Net Gain Biodiversity Duty Local Nature Recovery Strategy
District or Borough Local Plan and supporting SPD's	Local Plan policy reference:
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	International and national site protection: Ramsar sites (from Ramsar Convention), Habitat and Birds Directives (Natura 2000 sites include

the protection of species and habitats	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.
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