

**CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:****ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE**

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00152/FUL
ADDRESS	Land Adjacent 19 Newbold Road Barlestoke Nuneaton Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Erection of 2 dwellings and alterations to existing access (resubmission of 21/00901/FUL)
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Alex Jolley
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Charlotte Smith
DATE OF COMMENTS	15 September 2025
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revised Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025)Revised Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation tool (July 2025)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	<input type="checkbox"/>
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatics- see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recommend Refusal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holding Objection - Further information required	<input type="checkbox"/>
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
We have reviewed the revised Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025) and Revised Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation tool (July 2025). We are now satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support determination of this application. This provides certainty for the LPA of the likely impacts on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and, with appropriate mitigation measures secured, the development can be made acceptable. The mitigation measures identified in the revised Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025) should be secured by a condition of any consent and implemented in full. This is necessary to conserve and enhance protected and Priority species particularly those recorded in the locality.	

With regard to mandatory biodiversity net gains, it is highlighted that we support the submitted revised Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025) and Revised Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation tool (July 2025). Biodiversity net gains is a statutory requirement set out under Schedule 7A (Biodiversity Gain in England) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and we are satisfied that submitted information provides sufficient information at application stage. As a result, a Biodiversity Gain Plan should be submitted prior to commencement, which also includes the following:

- a) The completed metric calculation tool showing the calculations of the pre-development and post-intervention biodiversity values.
- b) Pre and post development habitat plans.
- c) Legal agreement(s)
- d) Biodiversity Gain Site Register reference numbers (if using off-site units).
- e) Proof of purchase (if buying statutory biodiversity credits at a last resort).

We are generally satisfied that the post-intervention values are realistic and deliverable. However, it is recommended that the following matters will need to be considered by the applicant as part of the biodiversity gain condition:

- The current proposals equal a -91.25% loss for area habitats and 100% loss for linear habitats. Therefore biodiversity units and/or credits will be required to achieve a 10% net gain for the site.

In addition, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be secured for all significant on-site enhancements. However, we note that the post-intervention values have been provided and that no significant on-site enhancements are proposed in the proposals. As a result, we are satisfied that HMMP is not likely to be required by legal obligation or a condition of any consent for a period of up to 30 years.

As indicated within the submitted information, offsite enhancements will be required in order to achieve a 10% net gain. This will require purchasing off-site habitat units with a habitat bank registered on the Biodiversity Gain Site Register. The LPA will require the Biodiversity Gain Site Register number and evidence that the units have been allocated to the habitat bank on the register.

We also support the proposed reasonable biodiversity enhancements for protected, Priority and threatened species, which have been recommended to secure net gains for biodiversity, as outlined under Paragraph 187d and 193d of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024). The reasonable biodiversity enhancement measures should be outlined within a separate Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy and should be secured by a condition of any consent.

This will enable LPA to demonstrate its compliance with its statutory duties including its biodiversity duty under s40 NERC Act 2006 (as amended) and delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013. We recommend that submission for approval and implementation of the details below should be a condition of any planning consent.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- 1. ACTION REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS**
"All mitigation measures and/or works shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained in the Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025) as already submitted with the planning application and agreed in principle with the local planning authority prior to determination.

This may/will include the appointment of an appropriately competent person e.g. an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) to provide on-site ecological expertise during construction. The appointed person shall undertake all activities, and works shall be carried out, in accordance with the approved details."

Reason: To conserve protected and Priority species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

2. PRIOR TO ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

"Prior to any works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected, Priority and threatened species, prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist in line with the recommendations of the revised Ecological appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Statement (Alca Ecology, August 2025), shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy shall include the following:

- a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;*
- b) detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;*
- c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans (where relevant);*
- d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures; and*
- e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).*

The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details shall be retained in that manner thereafter."

Reason: To enhance protected, Priority and threatened species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under paragraph 187d of NPPF 2024 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

3. PRIOR TO OCCUPATION: WILDLIFE SENSITIVE LIGHTING DESIGN SCHEME

"Prior to occupation, a "lighting design strategy for biodiversity" in accordance with Guidance Note 08/23 (Institute of Lighting Professionals) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The strategy shall:

- a) identify those areas/features on site that are particularly sensitive for bats and that are likely to cause disturbance in or around their breeding sites and resting places or along important routes used to access key areas of their territory, for example, for foraging; and*
- b) show how and where external lighting will be installed (through provision of appropriate lighting contour plans and technical specifications) so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent the above species using their territory or having access to their breeding sites and resting places.*

All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the scheme and maintained thereafter in accordance with the scheme. Under no circumstances should any other external lighting be installed without prior consent from the local planning authority."

Reason: To allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).	
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Gain Condition 	
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) SECTION	
HAVE MINIMUM NATIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS BEEN PROVIDED (PPG paragraph 11):	
Confirmation that development is subject to statutory biodiversity gain condition	Yes
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	Yes
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	Yes
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Yes
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	N/A
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	N/A
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N/A
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: "Competent person" information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	N/A
BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	No
ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE PROPOSALS PRESENT: These should be secured and monitored for 30 years	
Applicant-owned significant onsite BNG is proposed	No
Off-site BNG is proposed (eg. BNG units provided to achieve 10% BNG uplift either on applicant-owned land, purchased units or statutory credits)	Yes
PLEASE NOTE: this is indicative only , confirmed at Biodiversity Gain Plan condition stage	
TYPE OF SIGNIFICANT ON-SITE HABITAT PROPOSED: (using the current government definition ¹)	
Medium or High Distinctiveness	No
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness	No
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area	No

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

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

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.