CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00308/FUL
ADDRESS	Land Adjacent To 33 Merrylees Road Newbold Heath Newbold Verdon Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Installation of a ground mounted panel solar PV array
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sophie Iliffe
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Karley Khan
DATE OF COMMENTS	13 October 2026

ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:

- **N/A**

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

No comment	
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)	✓
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

We have reviewed the original documents submitted and the additional information provided, and understand the new cable route and solar panels will be installed on an area of hardstanding with no vegetation removal proposed. We have no further comments to make and draw attention to the recommended conditions and informatives below.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- N/A

ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:

- Great crested newts and their habitat are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Together, this legislation makes it illegal to: Deliberately capture, kill, disturb or injure a great crested newt; Disturb a great crested newt whilst it is occupying a structure or place for shelter or protection; Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to habitats used by great crested newts for protection or sheltering; and damage or destroy a breeding site

or resting place. As such, should a great crested newt be found, works should stop and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice. • Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); therefore, building demolition and vegetation clearance should take place outside the breeding season (March to August inclusive) unless carefully checked beforehand by a suitably qualified ecologist.
IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)
• N/A

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.

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.