

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	24/00264/OUT
ADDRESS	Land North Of Normandy Way Hinckley Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Outline planning permission for the erection of up to 415 dwellings, including landscaping, open spaces, drainage and associated infrastructure (outline - access only)
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Alex Jelley
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Dale Devereaux
DATE OF COMMENTS	18/04/2024
SUMMARY RESPONSE:	
No comment	
No objection	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	☒
Condition recommended	
Informative recommended	
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED:	
• I have reviewed the following ecological reports in relation to this application: ○ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared by Zebra Ecology - July 2023 ○ Interim Breeding Bird Survey Report prepared by Zebra Ecology - July 2023 ○ Bat Transect Activity Map prepared by Zebra Ecology - July 2023 ○ Bat Transect Activity Map prepared by Zebra Ecology - October 2023 ○ Great Crested Newt Report prepared by Zebra Ecology - June 2023 ○ Riparian Mammal Survey Report prepared by Zebra Ecology - November 2023 ○ Interim Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) prepared by Zebra Ecology - March 2024 ○ Biodiversity Net Gain Plan prepared by Zebra Ecology - January 2024 ○ Statutory Biodiversity Metric (PDF) prepared by Zebra Ecology - March 2024 • All the submitted ecological reports are acceptable, though the breeding bird survey, EclA, and bat activity surveys are incomplete, pending final surveys.	

• The statutory biodiversity metric was submitted as a PDF, therefore I am unable to properly view the document. This will need to be submitted in excel format in order for me to properly assess it. • The Biodiversity Net Gain Plan details all condition assessments, as well as the pre and post-development plan. These are acceptable, and the post-development plan matches up with the illustrative masterplan. • The report shows a -28.50% decrease in habitat biodiversity, a +18.26% increase in hedgerow biodiversity, and a 0% change in watercourse biodiversity. • Therefore, as stated in the report, 20.81 habitat units, and 0.53 watercourse units will need to be gained off-site.
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) specific comments:
• N/A
FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED:
• Further surveys are still required prior to determination, I therefore have a holding objection pending the following information: ○ Breeding Bird Survey report, following the remaining 4 surveys. ○ Bat Activity Report, following the remaining survey. ○ Updated EclA, following completion of all surveys, ○ Statutory Biodiversity Metric in excel format.
AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED:
• N/A
RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
• N/A
RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
• N/A
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
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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 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.