

Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA

BG Reference: BG24.214

6th August 2026

RE: Consultation response received in relation to the outline planning application (25/01207/OUT) at Land to the East of Ashby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

Further to the consultation response received from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in relation to the planning application (25/01207/OUT) at Ashby Road, Hinckley, additional information regarding mitigation relating to a single skylark territory was provided by Brindle and Green in a letter dated 19th March. A consultation response to this letter was provided by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on 17th April 2026 which stated the below:

Priority Species (Skylark):

We note that the breeding bird surveys undertaken as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Brindle & Green, September 2025) identified that the proposed development will likely result in the loss or displacement of a single Skylark territory. It is highlighted in the additional Letter response to LPA comments (Brindle & Green, March 2026) provided that the previously approved outline Skylark mitigation strategy which proposed a compensation plot in adjacent blue line boundary land is no longer available. We acknowledge that the creation of an area of other neutral grassland within the northern area of the site could support Skylark breeding by providing foraging resource, however whether this can act as a suitable compensation strategy in the absence of the a compensatory Skylark plot depends on how the grassland is managed to support Skylark, its location in relation to suitable breeding habitat, and whether it can be ensured that the area is free from disturbance including recreational pressures. Therefore, further information is required to help clarify whether the proposed habitat creation measures offer effective compensation for Skylark, a Priority farmland bird species under the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

A response to the additional information required is outlined below;

Grassland Management

The grassland proposed to provide foraging opportunity for skylark is proposed to be created as “other neutral grassland” in moderate condition and seeded with EM2 General purpose meadow mixture – shown as parcel 6 on the habitat map in Appendix 1. This mixture contains a high number of wildflower species and grass species which is expected to support a greater diversity and quantity of invertebrate species than arable habitats would.

The grassland will be managed to support the greatest species diversity with an annual hay cut implemented to suppress vigorous grass growth and ensure the sward remains structurally open. Where feasible, cutting will be undertaken on a rotational basis, leaving 10-20% of the margins or selected strips uncut each year. This approach will create a varied micro-topography of tussocks and short foraging areas within the same parcel. The use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers will be strictly limited to protect floral and invertebrate diversity of the grassland.

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The grassland is expected to provide greatest benefit in the spring when skylark require invertebrates to provide food for young. It will provide some weed and grass seeds over winter, especially if cutting is undertaken on a rotational basis leaving some areas uncut.

Location in relation to suitable breeding habitat

The location of the proposed foraging habitat is directly adjacent to suitable breeding habitat for skylark, with arable land suitable for breeding located directly to the north and east of the northern end of the application site. These connect to a much larger network of arable fields to the northwest of the site.

Recreational pressures

While a play area is proposed for the area of the site to the south of the proposed grassland, it is proposed that a fence delineates this area of higher quality grassland to prevent ingress and recreational impact by residents as shown in Appendix 1.

Conclusion

The impact of the development upon skylark is limited to the loss of a single territory, and it is considered the proposed onsite habitats, while not suitable to provide nesting opportunity, will provide foraging opportunities. It remains our opinion that the displacement of a single territory is not a significant impact that will adversely impact the conservation status of the local Skylark population.

If you have any further questions, please contact Brindle & Green using the details at the header of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,



Ellen Marshall
Associate Director
For and on behalf of Brindle & Green Ltd

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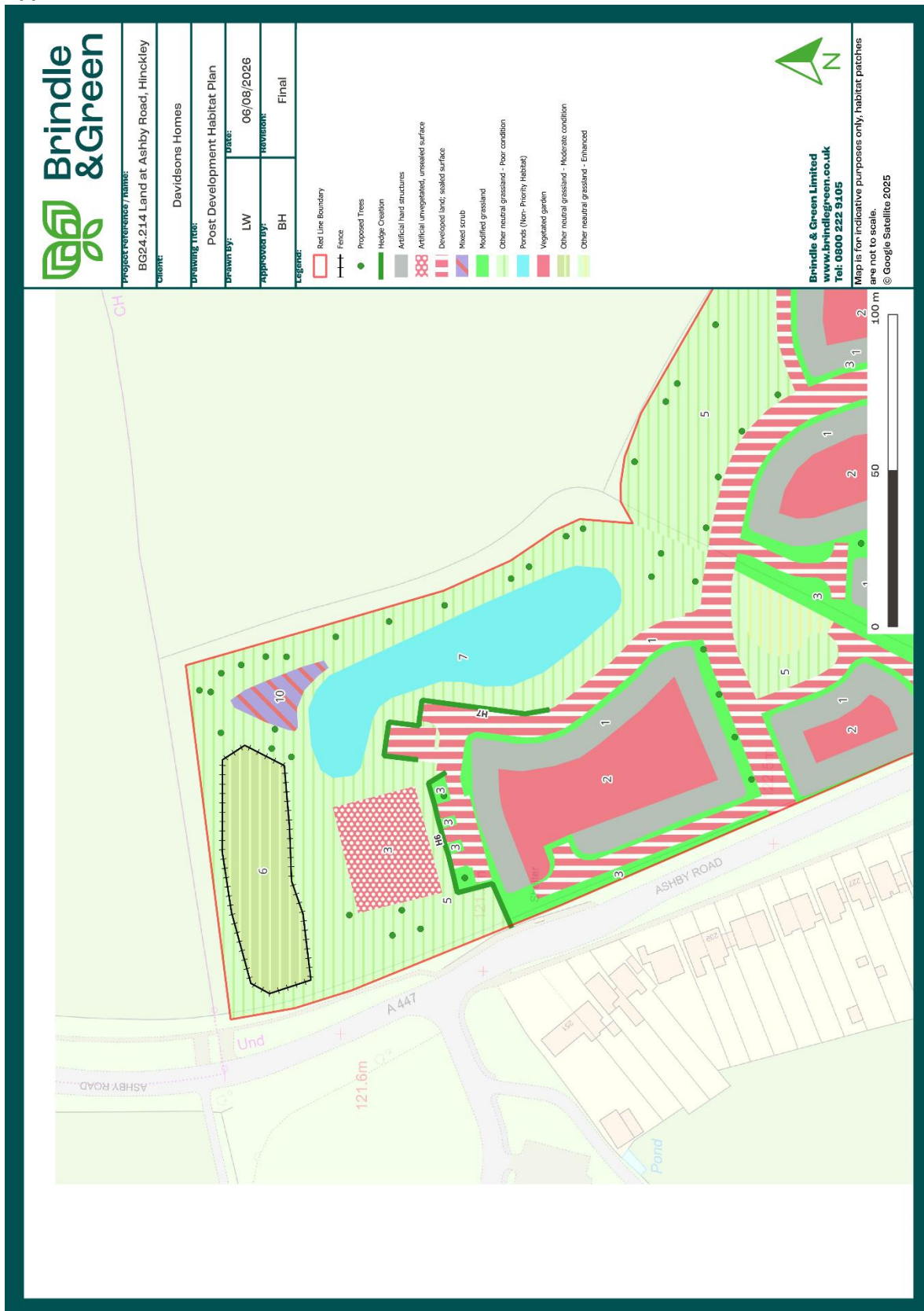


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Appendix 1



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