

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00653/HOU	
ADDRESS	Old Hayes Farm Burroughs Road Ratby Leicester Leicestershire	
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Single storey side extension and erection of new pool building	
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sophie Iliffe	
DEPARTMENT	Ecology	
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Richard Kelly	
DATE OF COMMENTS	30 September 2025	
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:		
• Application Form • Proposed Site Plan (Drg No. 1306.CS. 22.007 Rev G) • Proposed Site Plan (Drg No. 1306.CS. 22.005 Rev G) • Site Location Plan • Design, Access and Heritage Statement • Location Proposed Trial Holes - Raft Foundation Plan and Details (Drg No. 24094-01) • Great Crested Newt Assessment (Star Ecology, September 2025)		
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:		
No comment		
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)		✓
Recommend Refusal		
Holding Objection - Further information required		
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:		
There has been a review of applicant submitted information (Great Crested Newt Assessment) and previous Leicestershire County Ecology advice (30/07/2025) with updated comments below. • GCN – The proposed house extension will be situated on a patio which is good condition and does not provide suitable habitat for GCN. The swimming pool will be situated on a frequently mown lawn, the area does not provide suitable habitat for GCN however, they may traverse the area. • The three closest ponds were assessed for their suitability for GCN. • P1 – classed as ‘poor’, was dry at the time of survey and often dries therefore, considered unlikely for GCN to breed.		

• P2 – classed as ‘poor’ and used for rearing ducks which is devoid of suitable newt laying substrate. • P3 – classed as ‘poor’ which was silted up and covered with scrub and does not provide GCN breeding habitat. A further 3 ponds within 250m could not be accessed and no surveys undertaken. • Given the distance of the other ponds, it is considered that there is a potential risk of the development affecting great crested newts and a non-licensed Precautionary Working Method Statement will be required. This is set out in Appendix 4. Mitigation: precautionary method of work including an ecological clerk of works, grass clearance and storage of building material. This is accepted and welcomed as part of the planning application documents. Please see Informatives. BNG Specific • Mandatory BNG does not apply as the application is a ‘householder application’.
ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
• N/A
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
• Non-licensed Method Statement – Great Crested Newts, a species fully protected by law is proposed to be safe-guarded prior to and during development through a Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for Great Crested Newts. This is outlined in the Great Crested Newt Assessment (Star Ecology, September 2025), the development must be carried out in accordance with the approved NLMS.
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.

