

Site Name	The Hinckley School Butt Lane Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 1LE	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	23/00477/FUL	Response Deadline	16 th June 2023
Planning Officer	Christopher Brown	Completed By	Dean LeFeuvre BSC MCIEEM
Date of Request	1 st June 2023	Date of Issue	19 th June 2023

Stance: Object.

Dear Chris,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application advice request regarding the proposed demolition of five school buildings and the construction of a new three-storey school building with associated landscaping, external canopies, and external play area, including the construction and siting of a temporary teaching block and temporary staff car park during construction.

I have reviewed the following documents on the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's online planning portal.

- Site Location Plan (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0001)
- Existing Site Plan (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0002)
- Whole Site Plan (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0003)
- Site Landscaping Plan Sheet 1 (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0004)
- Site Landscaping Plan Sheet 2 (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0005)
- Site Landscaping Plan Sheet 3 (Dwg No. SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-D-L-0006)
- Tree Survey (Dwg No. SPL0001-TTL-XX-XX-T-O-0005-TreeSurvey-A2-C01)
- Planning Statement
- Bat Survey Report

First of all, I note that this comment request is marked '23/00477/FUL (Re-consultation)' although please note that as far as LCC ecology department are aware, this is our first consultation on this application and no prior comments have been made in relation to ecology.

Before I go into any great detail regarding the above documentation and the results of the submitted bat survey report, I must point out at this stage that the proposed development does meet the criteria for providing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as the Site exceeds the current small site exemption of the Environment Act 2021. As the proposals will impact upon existing greenspace and trees, there will be a requirement to provide BNG. Therefore, I would advise that this application is delayed until such information has been submitted, as BNG is required before any decision is made on the application.



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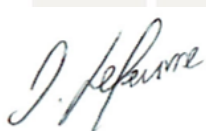
It cannot be left to reserved matters stage as plans may need to change to accommodate appropriate biodiversity enhancements.

The optimal time of year for grassland surveys is May-Sept, as it is very difficult to carry out a condition assessment (part of the process for completing the metric) of grassland outside of this time unless done by an experienced botanist. If net gain cannot be achieved within the site, the provision of off-site compensation can be Conditioned (although details of the proposed strategy should be provided). However, a baseline assessment and metric value of the existing habitats on site is still required at this stage and measurable biodiversity net gain will also need to be demonstrated, using the DEFRA 4.0 (or later) Metric.

The reason for this is that the NPPF (section 180. d) states that 'opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate'. DEFRA have released biodiversity net gain calculations (Metric 4.0), further details can be found here <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720> and here <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6047259574927360> which can be used to confirm whether the requirements of the NPPF have been met. Metrics should be submitted (in Excel format) with an accompanying biodiversity enhancement report/plan.

Please reconsult once the above information has been submitted to the planning portal and a full appraisal of the scheme and its potential impacts will be undertaken.

Yours sincerely,



Dean LeFeuvre BSc, MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)