

Site Name	Willow Farm Fenn Lanes Fenny Drayton Nuneaton Leicestershire CV13 6BJ	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	23/01035/FUL	Response Deadline	29 th November 2023
Planning Officer	Sullivan Archer	Completed By	Dean LeFeuvre
Date of Request	9 th November 2023	Date of Issue	30 th November 2023

Stance: No objection.

Dear Sullivan,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application advice request regarding the proposed construction of new dwellinghouse (following the demolition of existing agricultural building).

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

- **Existing Site and Location Plan - Drg No. E001 Rev A, Existing Plans and Elevations - Drg No. E010 Rev A, Proposed Floor Plans & Elevations - Drg No. P010 Rev C, Proposed Site and Location Plan - Drg No. P003 Rev C, Bat and Barn Owl Survey Report, and Badger and Great Crested Newt Assessment.**

I have also consulted Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) for existing protected species data and designated sites within the locality, which may incur potential impacts depending on the proposals. This identified that the site lies within a 'Great Crested Newt' impact buffer zone due to the presence of waterbodies and records within the immediate locality.

The Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA) and Barn Owl Presence / Absence Survey Report completed by Allied Ecology in April 2023 is sufficient. The assessment did not identify any potential for roosting bats or nesting birds within the current structure and therefore no further survey effort is required. There are however a number of precautionary safeguard recommendations and biodiversity enhancements advised. These should be adhered to at all times and can from a combination of technical notes and planning conditions. The proposed enhancements should be shown on relevant plans and submitted to the LPA to discharge that condition.

The 'Badger Surveys and Great Crested Newt Assessment' report dated June 2022 completed by Udall-Martin Associates Ltd is acceptable. The following observations and constraints were identified;

Badgers

A badger sett (comprising three entrances holes) was identified within close proximity to the proposed access track to the south within a copse. However, the track is at least 20m away from the closest

recorded sett entrance and if appropriate mitigation measures are implemented then damage to the sett and disturbance to badgers will be avoided/minimised. This will allow the sett to remain in-situ during development and post development, instead of closing it under disturbance/exclusion licence from Natural England which would not be considered appropriate in this instance.

Therefore as per recommendations made within the report, all site enabling works and construction activities should be completed in strict accordance with the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for badger which have been provided in Appendix 3 of the report. This will require ecological supervision and toolbox talks as necessary. A planning condition/s should be attached as follows;

- **Immediately prior to commencing onsite enabling or construction works, an update badger walkover will be completed by a competent and experienced ecologist to update survey effort completed during 2021 and 2022. This is due to the inherent nature of badgers changing sett locations and creating new ones in short periods of time. A report detailing the outcome of the updated walkover should be provided to the LPA ecology department for discharge.**
- **All site enabling works and construction activities should be completed in strict accordance with the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for badger provided in the 'Badger Surveys and Great Crested Newt Assessment' report dated June 2022 completed by Udall-Martin Associates Ltd.**

Great Crested Newts

There are three ponds and a ditch located immediately adjacent to the proposed access track. Habitats within the immediate vicinity also provide potential terrestrial habitat for this species, although the grassland in which the proposed access track will be situated is grazed short and provides poor potential habitat for amphibian species. When accessing LRERC data, I can confirm that great crested newts have been recorded within ponds 2 (north of the track) & 3 (south of the track) previously, which confirms their presence within close proximity to the proposed works. However, the route of the proposed access track runs through a short grassland field providing poor potential terrestrial habitat for newts and the section through the line of shrubs/trees is extremely limited in extent and is approximately 130m away from Pond 2.

Therefore, if precautionary mitigation is implemented adverse impacts to great crested newts will be avoided and no further newt surveys or EPS mitigation licencing will be required. In accordance with recommendations made within the report, all site enabling works and construction activities should be completed in strict accordance with the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for great crested newt provided in Appendix 4 of the report. This will require ecological supervision and toolbox talks as necessary. A planning condition/s should be attached as follows;



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- All site enabling works and construction activities should be completed in strict accordance with the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for great crested newt provided in the 'Badger Surveys and Great Crested Newt Assessment' report dated June 2022 completed by Udall-Martin Associates Ltd.

There have also been other precautionary measures recommended in relation to protected and notable species. These include limited potential habitat for reptiles and bird nesting habitat.

Nesting Birds

To avoid adverse impacts to nesting birds, the removal of shrubs ideally would be carried out outside the bird breeding season (which runs from March to September, inclusive). If this cannot be achieved, then pre-vegetation clearance nesting bird checks completed by an appropriately experienced ecologist would be required prior to removal works. A technical advice note relating can be attached to any approved scheme.

Reptiles

The majority of the site provides poor potential reptile habitat (i.e. shortly grazed grassland field). However, precautionary mitigation is advised so that adverse impacts to reptiles are avoided/minimised. Such potential impacts are covered under the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Non-Licensed Method Statement (NLMS) for great crested newt, which includes ecological site supervision during vegetation clearance.

Providing that the above is adhered to in full and the appropriate planning conditions and technical notes are attached to any approved scheme, I have no holding objections to proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dean LeFeuvre.

Dean LeFeuvre BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)