

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00381/FUL
ADDRESS	Twycross Zoological Park Burton Road Norton Juxta Twycross Atherstone Leicestershire CV9 3PX
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Creation of bilingual day nursery and preschool facility (Class E(f)) and associated parking
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sullivan Archer
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Michael McCoy
DATE OF COMMENTS	21 May 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• BNG Metric (DJOGS Ltd, Apr 2026) • Condition Assessment • Site Location Plan () • Biodiversity Impact Assessment Statement (DJOGS Ltd, Apr 2026) • Landscape and Ecological Enhancement Scheme, Drg No.2189 2 Rev 0 • BIA Baseline Habitat Map, Drg No.2189 1 Rev 0 (DJOGS Ltd, Mar 2026)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	✓
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
• We have reviewed the above documents along with 'Proposed Site Plan – Drg No. SC/0326 Rev 01' (DJOGS Ltd, Mar 2026) • Please can a protected species survey be completed to assess the site for protected species including a Preliminary roost Assessment (PRA) of the on-site building and trees. The PRA should be completed by a suitably licenced ecologist. • Please can the numbered individual trees that are calculated in the metric be stated in the user comments.	

- In the metric, please can the two separate modified grassland areas and two tall forbs areas be separated and labelled in user comments. Please can these habitat references also be included in the baseline map.
- Further information is needed to distinguish which are line of trees, which are individual trees and which are ornamental hedgerow to further understand where H1 and H2 ends as well as prevent double counting.
- It should also be noted that individual trees within hedgerow/line of trees do not need to be individually counted unless they are being removed.
- It should also be noted as per the guidelines: **“Trees within overgrown non-native and ornamental hedges (for example, leylandii) should not be classified as individual trees, or as lines of trees. Record these as nonnative ornamental hedges within the hedgerow module”**.
- In the condition assessment sheet, there are 6 trees, however, in the metric tree helper this include 7 trees (6 medium sized trees and 1 small sized tree)– further clarification needed in user comments.
- The condition assessment sheet only includes ruderal in the urban sheet, however, the condition assessment sheet for **bare ground** has not been completed. – **please can this be completed and the condition assessment sheets sent in the original excel format**.
- Further information and habitat map is needed on the proposed planting of 23 trees off-site as proposed in the metric. Please can information on the off-site (blue line) baseline habitat be provided including photos and a UKHab habitat map.
- As off-site habitat creation is proposed, a HMMP will be required, and the land will need to be legally secured for 30 years.

Post development

- It should also be noted that while the main focus at this stage is on agreeing the baseline, further justification will be needed on why a section of other neutral grassland is proposed entirely underneath the canopy of line of trees. It is highly unlikely that other neutral grassland will be achieved.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- The development shall not commence until a 30 year Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan (HMMP), prepared in accordance with an approved Biodiversity Gain Plan, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved HMMP shall be strictly adhered to and implemented in full for its duration and shall contain the following:
 - a) Description and evaluation of the features to be managed;
 - b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that may influence management;
 - c) Aims, objectives and targets for management - links with local and national species and habitat action plans;
 - d) Description of the management operations necessary to achieving aims and objectives;
 - e) Preparation of a works schedule, including annual works schedule;
 - f) Details and a timetable of the monitoring needed to measure the effectiveness of management;
 - g) Details of the persons responsible for the implementation and monitoring;

h) mechanisms of adaptive management to account for necessary changes in work schedule to achieve the required targets; and i) Details of methodology and frequency of monitoring reports to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to assess biodiversity gain • (To enhance biodiversity, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990)
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
• N/A
IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY:
(Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)
• N/A

PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT BASELINE FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)	
THIS IS THE MINIMUM NATIONAL ESSENTIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS (PPG paragraph 11) AND MUST BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO DETERMINATION:	
Confirmation that development is subject to statutory biodiversity gain condition	Y
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	Y
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	Y
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	N/A
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	N/A
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N/A
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: "Competent person" information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	N/A
BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	Y

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)	
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT ESSENTIAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO DETERMINATION. Post-development information is indicative only ; final proposals must be confirmed at Biodiversity Gain Plan statutory condition stage.	
ON-SITE SIGNIFICANT* BNG is proposed (If Y, please see later table)	Y
OFF-SITE APPLICANT-OWNED BNG is proposed (ie. Land shown on plan within the "blue line" boundary and inserted in "offsite" tab of statutory metric)	Y
PLEASE NOTE: Where applicant-owned off-site or significant on-site BNG proposals are present, these should be secured and monitored for 30 years. The determining authority is responsible for monitoring for compliance.	
OFF-SITE PURCHASE** of BNG	

BNG units purchase from a third party to achieve 10% BNG uplift	N
Statutory biodiversity credits	N
PLEASE NOTE**: Where purchased BNG units are proposed, any purchased units from the national register are secured and monitored for 30 years by conservation covenant, separately from this planning application process.	

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: *TYPE OF SIGNIFICANT ON-SITE HABITAT PROPOSED: (using the current government definition ¹)		
SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness	Other neutral grassland + Urban trees	0.15 + 0.07
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness	N/A	
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area	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

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer#significant-on-site-enhancements>

	amended including special Schedule 1), Natural England Standing Advice. Badger Act.
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