

Site Name	Land At Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell Leicestershire	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	23/01175/FUL	Response Deadline	15 th May 2024
Planning Officer	Tim Hartley	Completed By	Kirsten Hunter BSc ACIEEM
Date of Request	24 th April 2024	Date of Issue	15 th May 2024

Stance: Approve subject to off-Site biodiversity requirements and planning conditions

Dear Tim,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application regarding the proposed residential development of 51 dwellings with associated access and parking (revised scheme of 21/00695/FUL). Thank you for inviting Red Kite to comment of the latest re-consultation for this application. I have accessed Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's online planning portal and reviewed the following ecological relevant documents:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Metric;
- Habitats Proposed Phase B; and
- Habitats Proposed Phase B

The full BNG metric has been provided, as requested. Given that this application is part of a larger scheme, it is advised that suitable mitigation is provided for the cumulative loss of suitable arable foraging habitat for farmland birds, including skylark. Land for this should be secured prior to commencement of works with a suitable mitigation strategy in place and agreed upon with the LPA. This approach could form part of the off-site compensation to reduce the BNG loss on Site and enable net gain to be achieved. Detailed landscape plans should be produced to illustrate the proposed off-site scheme and any proposed mitigation.

As per the previous response issued by Red Kite, a professional ecologist's judgement should be made on whether the need for bat activity surveys is appropriate. As above, given that the collective applications will result in the removal of several sections of farmland, I would advise surveys are considered. If decided upon as a suitable course of action, bat activity surveys of appropriate timing and survey effort should be carried out, as per Bat Conservation Trust's Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition, 2023).

All other recommendations raised within the previously issued ecological response by Red Kite still stand.



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Yours sincerely,



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Senior Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)

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