

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinkley and Bosworth
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00722/BNG
ADDRESS	Caterpillar UK Ltd Peckleton Lane Desford Leicester Leicestershire LE9 9JT
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Application to discharge the biodiversity gain condition for application 24/00969/FUL
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Matt Jedruch
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Neil Harvey
DATE OF COMMENTS	12 November 2025
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• Biodiversity Gain Plan (Defra) (Estrada Ecology, Oct 2025) • Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (Estrada Ecology, Oct 2025) • Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (Estrada Ecology, Oct 2025) • Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Estrada Ecology, September 2024 – submitted with original application) • Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Estrada Ecology, April 2024 - submitted with original application) • Ecological Statement Discharge of Condition 7 (Estrada Ecology, October 2025)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	☐
Part Discharge of Condition	☐
Full Discharge of Condition	☒
Further information required	☐
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
Condition Mandatory BNG Condition: The development may not be begun unless— (a) a biodiversity gain plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and (b) the planning authority has approved the plan Comments We note that our previous comments, dated 10th October 2025, recommended further information be requested as follows: • Evidence of the purchase of offsite credits	

- A post-development habitat plan
- Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for significant onsite enhancements
- Confirmation of the status of planted trees in relation to mitigation requirements

A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan has now been provided and adequately sets out the ways in which created habitats will be managed over 30 years to provide the necessary level of biodiversity gain. The Local Planning Authority should consider how best to secure delivery of the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for the required period of 30 years.

The submitted Ecological Statement clarifies that proposed tree planting is for the purpose of contributing to the delivery of biodiversity net gain and shows adequate consideration for the ecological impacts on the underlying grassland in relation to net gain habitat types and condition.

The updated Biodiversity Gain Plan now includes evidence of the purchase of 5.21 offsite habitat units from a registered gain site, which has been verified on the Register itself.

Although a clear post-development habitat map covering all of the on-site habitats has still not been provided, the information provided in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report, Habitat and Management Monitoring Report and the Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan when taken together are considered to provide the bare minimum information required to provide confidence in the delivery of required on site measures. The applicant and their ecologist are strongly encouraged to provide clear habitat management maps within their initial monitoring report.

Conclusion

Subject to implementation in full of the submitted details, we recommend discharge of the Condition

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.