
From: Sarah Postlethwaite <Sarah.Postlethwaite@leics.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 May 2024 17:55
To: Matt Jedruch; Planning Folder New
Cc: Nikki Morton; Chris Oakden; 'Rupert'; biodiversity@charnwood.gov.uk; megan.belanger@charnwood.gov.uk; Victoria Halford
Subject: 23/01144/FUL - land off Leicester Rd, Markfield - final ecology response

Hi Matt

Victoria Halford from Brindle & Green has outlined their reasons for classifying the grassland on site as being 'other neutral grassland' (or ONG) rather than lowland meadow (in an email dated 03/04/24) for the purposes of the BNG assessment. Two of the fields were not considered to meet lowland meadow criteria due to agricultural improvement and intensive horse grazing/poaching. The significance of the match with the corresponding NVC category for lowland meadow (MG4) was found to be low when put through MAVIS (a program that assigns vegetation data to an NVC category).

The southern field was classed as being ONG in good condition in the metric, although B&G have said that this field is still representative of lowland meadow, and that it was not put into the metric as such to avoid triggering an error message (since the loss of lowland meadow requires a bespoke mitigation strategy), thereby allowing an indicative net gain/loss figure to still be obtained.

The metric should be amended, as proposed by B&G, to reflect this and show it as being retained, which will change the metric figures slightly, but not significantly.

As a priority habitat, this southern area is shown as retained on the plans, and is in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. It is therefore important that the long-term management of all the retained grassland is secured, to prevent it being lost to either scrub-encroachment or an inappropriate mowing regime. Additional scrub planting is shown on the landscape strategy plan in and around the area of exiting scrub and bramble; this is something that may need to be given further consideration.

Given that most of the site lies within Charnwood, I will leave detailed comments regarding the metric, appropriate enhancement measures, off-setting requirements and recommended Conditions to their biodiversity team.

Regards,
Sarah

Sarah Postlethwaite MCIEEM
Senior Planning Ecologist
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Leicester
LE3 8RA

07563 375772
sarah.postlethwaite@leics.gov.uk

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received. Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with Leicestershire County Council's policy on the use of electronic communications. The contents of e-mails may have to be disclosed for requests under Data Protection or Freedom of Information legislation. Details

about how we handle information can be found at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/data-protection>

The views expressed by the author may not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Leicestershire County Council.

Attachments to e-mail messages may contain viruses that may damage your system. Whilst Leicestershire County Council has taken every reasonable precaution to minimise this risk, we cannot accept any liability for any damage which you sustain as a result of these factors. You are advised to carry out your own virus checks before opening any attachment.