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WITH COMPLIMENTS

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ARCHITECT

01.06.2008



For the attention of Technicians Section
Development Control
~~Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council,~~
Argents Mead,
Hinckley.
~~LE10 1BZ~~

~~Timber Stables Reservoir Road Thornton 08/00518/FUL~~

Enclosed Biodiversity Statement as requested.

David M Haynes

BIODIVERSITY SURVEY AND REPORT

TIMBER STABLES RESERVOIR ROAD THORNTON 08/00518/FUL

MRS. JANE MUNTON

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The proposal is to provide a timber stable block of three boxes for equestrian use limited to the personal use of the applicant.

1.2 Until the summer of 2007 the paddock had been used for grazing of horses and ponies by the local travelling community and had been neglected and allowed to depreciate in quality. Following the purchase by Mrs. Munton the paddock has been cultivated and re-seeded and is currently put to grazing by sheep to help the re-establishment of quality grass land.

1.3 To improve the access arrangements to the paddock, the adjacent agricultural land and stables a re-alignment of the hedgerow to the road boundary has been requested by Highways Development Control of the Leicestershire County Council. This arrangement requires the removal and replacement of some fifteen meters of hedgerow.

2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

2.1 The paddock land is now put to grazing and does not offer a high quality habitat for wild life. The introduction of the proposed stable block will have very little impact on wild life and no mitigation or future enhancement is proposed at this time. In time the paddock will become more mature and may offer additional foraging areas to the adjacent Thornton Reservoir Nature Area.

2.2 The hedgerow to be removed consists of an old established mixed species hedge with a maximum height of six metres, set back from the highway by a narrow grass verge. The hedge, which has not received any maintenance for several years, consists of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, hazel with a high proportion of ivy. From inspection the hedge could offer a good habitat for nesting birds and small mammals but no evidence of any was apparent at the date of inspection. (31st May 2008). Nesting birds are protected under Part 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (with amendments), and should any evidence be found within the hedge, then no work should be conducted during the bird breeding season, between March and August. A further inspection should be made before works commence.
A new mixed species rural mix hedge, length approximately 15 metres, is to be established inside a post and 4 rail timber fence to provide improved sight splays for the access. The specification provided is recommended by Leicestershire County Council and is as follows:-

Native Species Hedge

70%	Hawthorn	(Crataegus Monogyna)
10%	Hazel	(Corylus Avellana)
10%	Blackthorn	(Prunus Spinosa)
5%	Wildrose	(Rosa Arvensis)
5%	Guelder Rose	(Viburnurm Opulus)

Planted in double row at 450mm c/c between rows at staggered centres to provide 5 plants per linear metre, in well prepared ground, maintained to prevent choking by weeds, kept well watered for the first year and protected form rabbits.
(Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester.)

The above proposal should, within a few seasons, provide future enhancement and mitigation measures in accordance with the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Validation Requirements.

08/00518/FUL

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