

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00305/FUL
ADDRESS	Ratby Sports Club Desford Lane Ratby Leicester Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Erection of two artificial grass pitches, a clubhouse, three padel courts, 500 person covered stand, tractor store, gated and turnstile access, steps and platform lift up to the site and parking facilities
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Joseph Fleetwood HBBC
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Michael McCoy
DATE OF COMMENTS	11 May 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• BNG Technical Note (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • BNG Metric (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness) (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) • Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type (Croft Ecology, Apr 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 as well as 'Site Location Plan, Drg No.9431_03_10 Rev PL1' (), 'Proposed Site Masterplan, Drg No.9431_03_01 Rev PL1' (HSSP, Mar 2026) & 'Lighting Layout, Drg No.HLS11961' (Halliday lighting, Feb 2026). • In the BNG Metric, please can the baseline strategic significance be recorded as low - Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy in line with the biodiversity metric user guide as the LNRS for Leicestershire & Rutland has been published.	

- Please can the habitat reference numbers be included on the baseline map so that these can be easily cross-referenced in the metric.
- Please can the copy of the GCN District Level Licence (DLL) which is signed (Section 6) and counter-signed by Natural England (Section 8) be provided.
- The lighting plan shows that the hedgerow to the western boundary (beside Desford Road) will be subject to Lux levels between 5-15Lux. This could have an impact on foraging bats with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026) stating that a sensitive lighting scheme should be used. Please can an updated lighting scheme be provided to show Lux levels of the hedgerow being lower than 1Lux.
- While a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted, we are not considering this document at this stage, please can this document be re-submitted along with further off-site information at the Biodiversity Gain Plan Condition, confirming the 10% net gain.

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)
- No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environment Management Plan for biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. The CEMP shall include the following details:
 - A. Identification of potentially damaging construction activities
 - B. practical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid or reduce impacts during construction on Great Crested Newts, reptiles, bats, badgers
 - C. timing of works to avoid harm to nesting birds
 - D. responsible persons for overseeing sensitive works
 - E. use of protective fencing where required

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

The development hereby approved shall be implemented in strict accordance with the measures stated in sections 4.6 - 4.8 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Croft Ecology, Apr 2026).
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)	Y
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	Y
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)	N
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	Y
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 definition¹)		
SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness	Rural Trees	0.2
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness	N/A	
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area	Other Neutral Grassland + Other broadleaved Woodland	4.69

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.

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

