

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00099/CONDIT
ADDRESS	Church Farm, Washpit Lane, Barlestone, Nuneaton, Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Application to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans), 7 (Archaeological Investigation), 11 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan), 14 (Noise) and 16 (Drainage) of planning permission 24/00120/CONDIT. Amendments to the approved Site Layout, Landscape Strategy Plan and wording of the conditions.
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Laura Ashton
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Olivia Larter
DATE OF COMMENTS	10 March 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• Further S73 Site Layout Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) • Further S73 Detailed Soft Landscape Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) • Landscape & Ecological Management Plan (Pegasus Group, December 2025) • Ecological Appraisal (RPS, November 2021)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No ecological objection	☐
No ecological objection subject to attached conditions	☒
Further information required/Temporary holding objection	☐
Recommend Refusal	☐
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
<u>Summary</u> We are only commenting on Conditions 2 and 11 which relate to Ecology. It is highlighted that the purpose of variation of conditions application is to make amendments to the approved Site Layout and Landscape Strategy Plan due to requirements from the Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor. It is also noted that the removal of 2no. Beehives and replacement with 4no. Bee hotels following consultation with expert ecologists is proposed. <u>Condition 2 (Approved Plans):</u> We have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal (RPS, November 2021) in relation to the new plans which comprise the Further S73 Site Layout Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) and the Further	

S73 Detailed Soft Landscape Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) which have been submitted to vary Condition 2.

We are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support the variation of this condition.

We note that the development footprint of the proposed solar panels and associated infrastructure contained within a perimeter fenced area remains the same, as such no additional ecological impacts are anticipated as a result of the variations proposed, therefore the ecological mitigation already secured under Condition 10 of the approved application 24/00120/CONDIT is considered sufficient.

Condition 11 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan):

We have reviewed the Landscape & Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) which has been submitted to vary Condition 11 in relation to the new plans comprising the Further S73 Site Layout Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025) and the Further S73 Detailed Soft Landscape Plan (Rev: C) (Pegasus Group, December 2025).

We are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support the variation of this condition. The LEMP has been updated to be deliverable in line with the new proposed plans, and we consider the management actions to be appropriate.

Conclusion

We have reviewed the submitted information, and we are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support the variation of Conditions 2 and 11 and recommend that the wording of these is updated to reference the new documents. Should any new consent be issued, we advise that all compliance conditions relating to ecology are added to support re-discharge of any already discharged.

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.