

Site Name	Land To The Rear Of The Cottage 34 Keats Lane Earl Shilton Leicestershire	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	23/00982/OUT	Response Deadline	16 th February 2024
Planning Officer	Alex Jelley	Completed By	Kirsten Hunter BSc ACIEEM
Date of Request	2 nd February 2024	Date of Issue	13 th February 2024

Stance: Object, pending further information

Dear Alex,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above outline application advice request relating to the residential development of up to 10 bungalows (some matters reserved except for scale and access). Red Kite previously issued an ecological response to this application on 6th Nov 2023. This current response concerns review of the following additional information from Hinkley & Bosworth Borough Council's online planning portal. Other recommendations unrelated to BNG made in the Nov 2023 Red Kite response still stand:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment by Three Shires Ltd; and
- Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool

The following points are raised:

- The current landscape plan achieves a significant net loss of -1.46 (-60.64%) habitat units and -0.14 (-18.51%) hedgerow units. The landscape plan should be revised to achieve meaningful net gain on Site and, if this is not possible, through off-Site solutions. From 12th February 2024 mandatory 10% minimum net gain has become statutory, however the percentage of meaningful net gain sought should be as agreed with the LPA as 10% is considered the minimum net gain to be achieved. All trading rules should also be satisfied;
- The site visit was undertaken in Dec 2023 which is a suboptimal time of year for grassland surveys, therefore key species may have been missed. This is of particular concern given the noted presence of *Scorzoneroide autumnalis* which is a lowland meadow indicator and suggests the grassland (currently assessed as modified grassland) may have been assessed as a lower ecological value than it should be. The Ecological Appraisal by Wildlife Consultants Ltd was undertaken during optimal survey time (August) and found further forb species not listed in the BNG site visit including *Trifolium pratense* and *Anthriscus sylvestris* which supports this however the Ecological Appraisal did not appear to evaluate the grassland type. It is therefore recommended that the BNG grassland survey is repeated at an optimal time of year;

- A 30-year Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should be developed to detail habitat establishment/upkeep and demonstrate how habitat conditions sought in the BNG will be achieved/maintained; and
- A Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) to include details on specification and installation of suggested ecological enhancements including bird boxes, bat bricks, hedgehog gravel boards and native planting which should clearly be marked on the final landscape plan.

Yours sincerely,

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Senior Ecologist
On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)



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