

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00408/HOU
ADDRESS	12 Rectory Gardens Newbold Verdon Leicester Leicestershire LE9 9AJ
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	12 Solar PV array on front elevation roof and associated battery
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Faizal Jasat
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Karley Khan
DATE OF COMMENTS	11 June 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
N/A	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	✓
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	
Upon review of the Proposed Roof Plan (no ref/date), Location Plan (ref: PP-14905377v1), Planning Statement (no ref/date), aerial imagery and Application Form, we require some additional information in order to assess the likely impact of the development on ecology and biodiversity. <i>Roosting Bats;</i> - The site is located within proximity to mature trees, open green space and vegetated gardens which connect with the wider countryside. The proposals are for the installation of solar panels which will require works to the existing roof, and bats are particularly associated with building roof structures as well as soffit boxes, brickwork, cavity walls and fascias. - As such, a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) is required in the first instance, in accordance with the latest Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines. Depending on the results of the PRA of the building/roof, further survey work may be required. The roof should also be checked for any other protected and Priority Species, namely nesting birds.	

- All of the ecological survey work will need to be undertaken by suitably licenced and experienced ecologist(s), during the relevant optimal period and in accordance with the best practice guidance/methodology.
- An accompanying ecology report(s), with relevant plan(s) and photos, will also need to be submitted detailing the results of the ecology survey work, mitigation and enhancements where relevant. This information would allow the planning application to be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and ODPM Circular.
- **Holding objection for ecological survey work to be undertaken and a suitable supporting ecology report(s) submitted.**

Swift Area;

- The site is located within a 'Swift Alert' zone as it is within 250m of a number of recorded nest sites. Swifts are a declining species, and a Priority Species in our Local Biodiversity Action Plan, therefore ecological enhancements in the form of Swift boxes should be installed on the existing building. These should be made of woodcrete for longevity, and located at least 5m above the ground, in a shaded area, and with a clear approach.

The results are required prior to determination because paragraph 99 of the ODPM Circular 06/2005 highlights that: *"It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision."*

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

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ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:

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IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY:

(Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)

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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/N
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	Y/N
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	Y/N
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y/N
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	Y/N
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	Y/N
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	Y/N
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: "Competent person" information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	Y/N

BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	Y/N

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/N
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)	Y/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/N
Statutory biodiversity credits	Y/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 definition ¹)		
SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness		
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness		
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area		

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

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.

