

Site Name	Castle Farm Gopsall Road Bilstone Shackerstone Nuneaton Leicestershire CV13 6NQ	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	24/00853/OUT	Response Deadline	10 th Oct 2024
Planning Officer	David Spring	Completed By	Kirsten Hunter BSc ACIEEM
Date of Request	24 th Sept 2024	Date of Issue	9 th Oct 2024

Stance: Approve, no further comments

Dear David,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application regarding extensions to three existing stock housing buildings and the erection of a new building for young stock. I have accessed Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) and reviewed the following documents on the online planning portal:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment 2024 by Clayton Ecology;
- BNG Metric (sent separately and reviewed); and
- Site Location Plan.

The survey of the site was undertaken within optimal period for habitat surveys. Given the habitat types recorded, current land use and context, an ecological appraisal is not considered necessary. However, it is recommended that a precautionary method of working is adopted to address ecological concerns such as the potential for ground-nesting birds and the presence of priority mammals passing through the works area. This could take the form of a Construction Environment Management Plan for biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) which should include details on good working practises to ensure protection of nearby habitats, timing of works to avoid harm to nesting birds and methods of working to safeguard mammals such as hares which may be present during works. This document can form a pre-commencement condition.

The proposed created habitat of mixed scrub as per Section 4.12 in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report is suitable given the setting, should provide benefit to biodiversity including farmland bird species and is anticipated to result in a net gain in excess of 10% (hedgerow and watercourse units are not present and not sought). It is recommended a draft landscape strategy is submitted as evidence that the proposed created habitat can be created and managed to the 'good' condition stated for 30 years.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Kirsten Hunter BSc, ACIEEM

Senior Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)