



CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00593/FUL
ADDRESS	22 Station Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 1AW
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Change of use from sui generis to class E including new entrance and shop front.
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sophie Iliffe
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Karley Khan
DATE OF COMMENTS	10 August 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:	
We have reviewed the Proposed Ground and First Floor Plans (ref: 25-69-PT3-04 & 25-69-PT3-03a), Design and Access Statement (ref: 25-69 PT3- DAS), Location Plan (ref: 25-69-PT3-PL06), Elevations Plan (ref: 2133), Proposed Elevations (ref: 25-69-PT3-05a) and Application Form. On this basis, we require some additional information in order to assess the likely impact of the development on ecology and biodiversity, in particular the potential impact to roosting bats. Works to the external elevations are proposed, such that 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, further survey work in the form of dusk emergence survey(s) may be required. The building should also be surveyed for nesting birds and any other protected/Priority species/important ecological feature(s) that may be present. An accompanying ecology report(s), with relevant plan(s) and photos, will need to be submitted detailing the results of the ecology survey work, mitigation and enhancements. This information would allow the planning application to be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and ODPM Circular.	

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:

- TBC

ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:

- All UK Bat Species are protected by law: Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended) through inclusion in Schedule 5 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) which makes it an offence Intentionally or recklessly/deliberately injure, take or kill a bat. Therefore, all work must be carried out carefully with the expectation that bats may be found. If bats are observed within the building at any time work must cease immediately and Natural England or the assigned ecologist for this project must be contacted for advice.
- Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); therefore, building demolition and significant alteration or vegetation clearance should take place outside the breeding season (March to August inclusive) unless carefully checked beforehand by a suitably qualified person.

IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY:

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

- N/A

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.

