

Site Name	Aldi Watling Street Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 3ED	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	23/00704/FUL	Response Deadline	14 th August 2023
Planning Officer	Christopher Brown	Completed By	Dean LeFeuvre BSC MCIEEM
Date of Request	24 th July 2023	Date of Issue	17 th August 2023

Stance: No objections.

Dear Chris,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application advice request regarding the proposed extension to existing Aldi Foodstore (Class E), car park and associated works.

I have reviewed the following documents on the Hinkley & Bosworth Borough Council's online planning portal.

- **Site Location Plan, Drg No. K22A02-P001, Existing Site Plan, Drg No. K22A02-P002 Rev A, Proposed Site Plan, Drg No. K22A02-P003 Rev A, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Bat Survey and Bat Survey Rt-MME-160815- Rev A**

I have also consulted Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) data for protected species and designated sites within the locality, which may incur potential impacts depending on the proposals. This Identified the presence of known common pipistrelle roost and mitigation site associated with the structure on site. No statutory designated sites were noted within close proximity, although the River Anker which is a non-statutory Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is located immediately adjacent to the south-west boundary.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) completed by Middlemarch in July 2023 is sufficient. The report also includes a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the structure within, which identified that it had high bat roost potential and further surveys were recommended and later undertaken. Precautionary best practices measures have been recommended for mammals (badger, otter & hedgehog) and nesting birds. A Schedule 9 non-native invasive species (NNIS) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act1981 (*as amended*) was recorded on Site and recommendations to ensure that it does not spread as result of the proposals have been made.

Following the PRA conducted in July 2023, additional nocturnal presence/absence surveys for roosting bats were undertaken on the structure as reported in the bat survey report (Bat Survey Rt-MME-160815- Rev A) dated August 2023. The surveys did not Identify the presence of a roosting bats and therefore no further consideration for this species in relation to roosting is required, unless the works to not commence within the next 12 months. Should the proposed works have not commenced by August 2024 there is a recommendation within the report to update the previous survey effort due to

the potential roost features recorded. low levels of common pipistrelle activity was recorded along the hedgerow of the west boundary and in the north-east of the site. Therefore standard advice regarding lighting should be followed, this is set out in Section 6 Page 12 of the report. If significant external lighting is required, then a Lighting Strategy pre-approved by a competent bat licensed ecologist should be submitted as a pre-commencement planning condition and approved by the LPA ecology department.

Following the provision of the above ecological information I would request the following to be attached to any approved scheme;

- A Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be submitted as pre-commencement planning condition to ensure that the adjacent LWS site and other habitats of ecological sensitivity are adequately protected from construction phases. A full list of the items to be included is provided within Section R3, Page 26 of the PEA Report.
- A standard technical note relating the breeding birds and the removal of vegetation on site to facilitate the proposals.
- A Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement (RAMMS) to ensure that best working practices are adhered to in relation to badger, otter, and hedgehog in the event that they access the site during construction activities.

Yours sincerely,



Dean LeFeuvre BSc, MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)



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