



CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00763/OUT	
ADDRESS	35 Langdale Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0NR	
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Outline planning permission for the erection of one dwelling (All matters reserved except for access and layout)	
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Ashleigh Gade	
DEPARTMENT	Ecology	
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Jemma Bett	
DATE OF COMMENTS	07 January 2026	
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:		
• Small Sites Metric (SSM) - Matthew Kirby (July 2025) • Revised BNG Feasibility Report – Oak Ecology (Nov 2025)		
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:		
No comment		
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)		
Recommend Refusal		
Holding Objection - Further information required		✓
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:		
• The Small Sites Metric (SSM) and supporting report have been reviewed. • Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – The revised report states that a small cherry tree (<30 cm DBH) within the vegetated garden has been excluded from the metric. Under the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Small Sites Metric) User Guide (DEFRA, 2024), all trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 7.5 cm must be recorded as individual trees, even if located within gardens. • Therefore, to ensure trading rules and statutory guidance are met, the BNG report and SSM results need to be updated accordingly to include the individual tree. • The current BNG metric shows a net loss of -80.09%% in habitat units and a loss of -25% in hedgerow units. • Based on the current site, the BNG report indicates it is unlikely that 10% biodiversity net gain is to be achieved onsite and therefore, offsite compensation will be necessary either through habitat creation or purchase of credits/units.		

- Enhancements – To ensure biodiversity enhancements are being provided In line with the NPPF, we welcome the recommended enhancements within Section 5.2 of the report. However, any enhancement measures including model type and location, need to be shown on all relevant submitted plans. Please see the below condition. - To note integrated bat boxes should be positioned in an area offering appropriate shelter and minimal disturbances. For example, positioned at least 4 m above ground level, close to the eaves, away from artificial lighting and with a clear flight path. - If swift boxes are the preferred enhancement measure, a group of at least three swift boxes should be incorporated and grouped together to increase the likelihood of uptake, given their natural social nesting behaviour. General bird boxes are also a suitable recommendation.
ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
No development shall take place until a biodiversity enhancement scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. Enhancements shall include (but is not limited to) at least one woodcrete/integrated bat box and one woodcrete/integrated bird box, the make/model and their locations. Any enhancement measures need to be shown on all relevant submitted plans. All works are to proceed strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
All new planting should be composed of native species.
IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)

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
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	TBC
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	TBC
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	N/A
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	N/A
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N/A
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: "Competent person" information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	Y
BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	Y

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)	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)	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	TBC
Statutory biodiversity credits	TBC
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.	

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.
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