

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	24/00805/FUL
ADDRESS	Inglenook Farm Leicester Road Barwell Leicester Leicestershire LE9 8BD
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Erection of an indoor riding school, including associated works
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Matt Jedruch
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Michael McCoy
DATE OF COMMENTS	25/03/2025
SUMMARY RESPONSE:	
No comment	
No objection	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	✓
Condition recommended	
Informative recommended	
SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED:	
• Small Sites Metric Calculation Tool & Email (Wildlife Consulting, 2025) • Block Plan (Housemartin Design, 2024)	
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED:	
• We have reviewed the updated small site metric + email as well as proposed block plan. • While the email acknowledges the mistake of the strategic significance assigned to the grassland is wrong, this has not been rectified in the attached metric. • We agree on the baseline habitat of the Small Site Metric (SSM), acknowledging the habitat degradation and classifying the habitat as 'Modified grassland'. • However, the habitat creation does not reflect what is being created, not taking into account the 'proposed riding school building' or the degraded habitat that is present now. • While the email clarifies that the other neutral grassland created is to be located 'on site', the plans presented does clarify the exact location of this area. Is this where the modified grassland was in the baseline? • Block plans also do not show where the new planting (hedgerow and trees) is going to be located on site.	

- The Block plan also shows a path leading to the proposed indoor riding area, this has also not been included in the 'habitat creation' section of the BNG metric. - In order to get a full picture showing exactly what is being created, two maps are required: one showing the baseline habitat (before degradation – matching baseline in metric), and one showing the post development including the other neutral grassland. Both maps should be annotated with the UKHabs habitat type and colour coordinated. The red line boundary should also be visible.
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) SPECIFIC COMMENTS:
- BNG metric is showing significant gains, however, does not take into account the habitat degradation or buildings in the 'habitat creation' tab. - See above section for further information.
FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED:
- Habitat maps showing both baseline and post-development habitats and locations within the red line boundary, annotated with UKHabs classifications. - Updated BNG Small Site Metric taking the proposed building and surrounding habitat into consideration.
AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED:
N/A
RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
N/A
RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
N/A
RECOMMENDED SECTION 106 REQUIREMENT (standard clause, contribution amount, trigger for payment)
N/A
DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)
N/A

Note for applicants: Please be aware that this specialist advice is provided to the Local Planning Authority through a Service Level Agreement between the Local Planning Authority and Leicestershire County Council.

If you have any queries about this advice, 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 as part of this service.

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.

