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Our ref: 11573 / AJR

Andrea Evans  
Planning Ecology Officer  
Leicestershire County Council

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Andrea Evans

### **Land South of Bosworth Lane, Newbold Verdon – 25/00515\_OUT**

The following acknowledges and responds to the comments received from yourself on the above planning application relating to ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain.

#### Further details required in respect of aerial tree inspections and static detector surveys:

- Surveys are ongoing and a bat report will be submitted in late July, clarifying the details around the aerial tree inspections and detailing the results of the ongoing survey work.

#### Application to Natural England in respect of the District Level GCN Licence

- An application has been made and as requested, the counter signed IACPC will be submitted prior to determination.

#### Request for hedgerow proformas

- An updated Ecological Appraisal, including hedgerow proformas will be submitted in late July.

#### BNG – Vegetated Gardens cannot be used to achieve a % gain as a vegetated garden cannot be subject to long term monitoring to achieve its target condition

- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User guidance (July 2024. DEFRA) states in Section 8 that 'The post-development private garden has no public access, and biodiversity net gains cannot be legally secured. As these gains cannot be secured you should only record created private gardens as either: 'urban – vegetated garden' or 'urban – unvegetated garden'.

- In addition, within the [Biodiversity Net Gains – Frequently Asked Questions \(Biodiversity Net Gain FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions | Local Government Association](#) [viewed on 30.06.25]) the answer to the question 'Can gardens count towards BNG?' the answer is 'Yes. *Private gardens can make positive contributions to biodiversity, but appropriate planting and ongoing management can not be secured in the long-term. The biodiversity metric recognises this in its scoring of the value of gardens.*'
- Vegetated gardens are a low distinctiveness habitat, with an automatic condition score of 1. As set out above, within the guidance vegetated gardens can be used towards providing a net gain post-development and the inability to secure long-term management is taken into account within the metric calculations.

Yours sincerely



**Aveline Rowlands**  
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