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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**

Associate Ecologist

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