

Site Name	Land Adj New Reservoir House Reservoir Road Thornton Leicestershire	Advice Request	Ecology
Planning Ref	24/00761/FUL	Response Deadline	18 th Sept 2024
Planning Officer	Sullivan Archer	Completed By	Kirsten Hunter BSc ACIEEM
Date of Request	4 th Sept 2024	Date of Issue	19 th Sept 2024

Stance: Further survey information requested

Dear Sullivan,

I am writing in respect of ecological matters for the above application regarding the construction of new stable block, concrete yard and additional area of hardcore access. I have accessed Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) and reviewed the following documents on the online planning portal:

- BNG Plan, Metric and Map; and
- Site Location Plan 100 and Block Plan 101.

A biodiversity net gain plan has been submitted by the applicant with details on how the works were designed to avoid or minimise impacts to habitat. No ecological baseline survey has been provided for these works. However, at the LPA's discretion, given that only a relatively small amount of modified grassland will be removed from an already frequently used paddock to facilitate the works, a robust Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) should be adequate to address ecological concerns such as ensuring retained habitat is protected and works are conducted in a sensitive manner. A small sites metric is also provided which indicates the site walkover was undertaken on the 26th April 2024.

The application is lacking a BNG report therefore further detail is requested on the BNG condition assessments for the grassland including any species lists which were undertaken. This is required in order to demonstrate that the grassland falls within 'modified' criteria rather than 'other neutral grassland' and 10% net gain is still achievable with the proposed plan

In addition, the following is advised and can form pre-commencement planning conditions:

- No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environment Management Plan for biodiversity (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. The CEMP shall include the following details:
 - Identification of potentially damaging construction activities;

- identification of biodiversity protection zones around adjacent retained habitat (retained hedgerow and retained grassland);
- practical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid or reduce impacts during construction;
- responsible persons for overseeing sensitive works;
- timing of works to avoid impacts on breeding birds;
- use of protective fencing where required;

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

- No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a landscape plan covering 30 years has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. This can take the form of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). Ideally a draft version should be submitted with planning but a final version should be submitted with the Biodiversity Plan as pre-commencement planning condition. This should include the following details:
 - description and evaluation of the features to be created/managed, including the off Site component when this is acquired;
 - aims and objectives of management;
 - appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives;
 - prescriptions for management actions;
 - work schedule;
 - species/seed mixes to be planted/sown;
 - ongoing monitoring and remedial measures;

The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Kirsten Hunter BSc, ACIEEM

Senior Ecologist

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council (Ecology Team)