

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00060/FUL	
ADDRESS	Electricity Substation Wood Road Nailstone Leicestershire	
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Installation of an electrical substation, transformers, new vehicular access, and associated site infrastructure	
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Sullivan Archer	
DEPARTMENT	Ecology	
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Kirsten Hunter	
DATE OF COMMENTS	24/02/2025	
SUMMARY RESPONSE:		
No comment		
No objection		
Recommend Refusal		
Holding Objection - Further information required		✓
SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BNG Metric – PDF only is available on planning portal; • Site location plan; • Proposed Site Plan; • Existing Site Plan (LE42-12-0001D); • Ecological Impact Assessment; and • BNG Assessment 		
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed landscape scheme is feasible including target condition of the ‘other neutral grassland’ which is unlikely to achieve higher than ‘poor’ condition when overshadowed by the proposed trees. • A net gain predicted, however a full working version of the Excel metric is requested for review. • Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be conditioned to evidence how these habitats will be created including details on seed mixes, how they will be managed to target condition, and how they will be monitored with suitable remedial measures in place should habitats fail to thrive. • Condition assessment information is missing from the planning portal. This should be provided for review. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Impact Assessment is satisfactory and recommendations should be carried out to best practise guidance. • The following query is raised: Existing Site Plan (LE42-12-0001D) indicates a tree will be removed, however removal of this trees is not considered within the ecological appraisal. It is recommended the ecological appraisal is updated to evaluate impacts on roosting bats and breeding birds in relation to removal of this tree. Any further protected surveys recommended as a result should be carried out prior to determination. Note that all bat surveys should be carried out by an experienced, licensed ecologist and in accordance with the Good Practice Guidelines. Mitigation should be designed in line with Natural England’s & CIEEMs Bat Mitigation Guidelines. Any deviation from the methods, level or timing of surveys set out in the Good Practice Guidelines should be accompanied by a reasoned evidence statement from the licensed ecologist carrying out the survey clarifying how the sub-optimal survey is ecologically valid. 	
PROTECTED SPECIES FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of potential impacts on roosting bats and breeding birds in relation to removal of tree. 	
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED REGARDING:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells in the statutory metric	
Incomplete or incorrect UK Hab or condition assessment information	X
Final pre-development habitat value	
How post-development BNG land will be secured for 30 years	X
Description of irreplaceable habitat	
Description of degradation	
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) SPECIFIC COMMENTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full working version of the Excel metric is requested for review • Condition assessments for baseline habitats 	
DATE PROVIDED ON STATUTORY METRIC ONCE REVIEWED AND AGREED (for decision notice purposes):	
ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.