



CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	
APPLICATION NUMBER	26/00807/SCOPE	
ADDRESS	Land At Ashby Road And Normandy Way Hinckley Leicestershire	
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Screening Opinion for residential development of 482 dwellings	
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Alex Jelley	
DEPARTMENT	Ecology	
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Hamish Jackson – Senior Ecological Consultant	
DATE OF COMMENTS	5 October 2026	
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:		
Screening Opinion Letter (Marrons, 14th September 2026)		
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:		
Project is likely to result in significant ecological effects (Screen in)		☐
Project will not result in significant ecological effects (Screen out)		☒
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:		
<u>Baseline Information</u> The Screening Opinion Letter (Marrons, 14 September 2026) states that an Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, prepared by FPCR, will be submitted in support of the application. The Ecological Appraisal should include an up-to-date desk study informed by records obtained from the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC). These records should be used to identify ecological constraints and inform the scope of any required protected and Priority species surveys. <u>Potential Ecological Impacts</u> The proposed development would not result in any direct impacts on statutory designated sites. The site lies within the Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) of the following designated sites:		

- Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- Ensor's Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Burbage Wood and Aston Firs SSSI; and
- Kendall's Meadow SSSI.

However, the site is located a sufficient distance from these designated sites, and the proposals do not trigger consultation with Natural England. We therefore agree that the development is unlikely to result in significant ecological effects on these statutory designated sites.

The site does not contain any non-statutory designated sites; however, several are understood to be present within 1 km. The Ecological Appraisal should therefore assess whether the development could result in any impacts on these locally designated sites and identify any necessary mitigation measures.

The majority of the route passes through arable farmland, interspersed with numerous hedgerows. On the basis of the information currently available, the site is considered likely to support a relatively low ecological baseline, although this will need to be confirmed through the Ecological Appraisal.

No recent ecological surveys or assessments have been submitted in support of the EIA Screening Request. Consequently, the current information does not allow a detailed assessment of potential impacts on protected or Priority species and habitats. Nevertheless, these matters can be appropriately addressed through the proposed Ecological Appraisal and are not anticipated to give rise to significant ecological effects requiring EIA.

Conclusion

Based on the location, scale and nature of the proposed development, we consider that the project is unlikely to result in significant ecological effects, provided that appropriate avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are incorporated into the design.

Accordingly, we recommend that ecology is screened out of the Environmental Impact Assessment process for this development.

Notwithstanding the EIA screening conclusion, sufficient ecological information relating to non-significant effects on protected species, Priority species, Priority habitats and designated sites will still be required at the planning application stage, whether presented within an EIA chapter or as standalone ecological documentation. This is necessary to ensure that the Local Planning Authority can fully assess all likely ecological impacts, determine the application lawfully, and secure any required mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures through appropriately worded planning conditions and / or obligations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries in relation to this advice.

Note for applicants: Please be aware that this advice is provided to the Local Planning Authority through a Service Level Agreement between the Local Planning Authority and Leicestershire County Council Ecology Team. Its purpose is to discharge the legal duties of the determining authority under The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations (2000), Regulations 4.

If you have any queries about the content, 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 to the determining authority.

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 SPDs	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 (as amended)	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), (Natura 2000 sites include SACs and SPAs), SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves. Habitats and Species protection: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (protected sites and species). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) including special Schedule 1, Natural England Standing Advice. Protection of Badgers Act 1992.