

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00523/FUL
ADDRESS	Wiggs Farm Wood Road Nailstone Coalville Leicestershire LE67 1GE
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	The erection of a B8 distribution hub with ancillary offices, quality control office and canopy, maintenance units, gatehouse, associated infrastructure, and landscaping
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Matt Jedruch
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Michael McCoy
DATE OF COMMENTS	17 September 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• Figure 11.1 – Baseline Habitat Map V4 (Envance, Aug 2026) • Technical Note - Red Line Change (Barberry, Jun 2026) • Revised BNG Metric - V6 post submission (Envance, Aug 2026) • Illustrative landscape masterplan sheet 2 of 2 V1 – DWG No. 1906-L-D-PL-203 (BLADE, Jun 2026) • Illustrative landscape masterplan sheet 1 of 2 V2 – DWG No. 1906-L-D-PL-202 (BLADE, Jun 2026)	
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:	
No comment	
No objection (for recommended conditions or informatives- see below)	
Recommend Refusal	
Holding Objection - Further information required	✓
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:	

- We have reviewed the above documents and require further information.
- Further clarity is needed on the red line boundary (RLB). This includes clarification on the “planning” RLB vs the “construction” RLB. BNG should encompass the whole RLB which is agreed with the planning officer. If the planning officer has agreed to change the RLB to reduce the site size, then this is acceptable.
- The updated metric now includes nine hectares of broadleaved woodland in the on-site habitat baseline but this change is not shown in the baseline map.. Only on-site habitat within the RLB should be included in the tab. Therefore, the woodland should be moved to the off-site habitat baseline.
- The road at the eastern boundary beside hedgerow H1 is included in the RLB and labelled as ‘developed land; sealed surface’. However, this has not been included in the metric. Please can the developed land; sealed surface be added to the baseline section of the metric please.
- As per the previous ecology comments: *“We also need an updated BNG report/tech note to confirm the baseline value as this is a national minimum requirement under para 011 of the BNG PPG”*.
- It should also be noted based on the current metric that the trading rules will not be satisfied as there be a loss of ‘Lowland mixed deciduous woodland’ has high distinctiveness and must be replaced with the same habitat. Other broadleaved woodland is only a medium distinctive habitat.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- The development shall not commence until a 30-year Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan (HMMP), prepared in accordance with an approved Biodiversity Gain Plan, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved HMMP shall be strictly adhered to and implemented in full for its duration and shall contain the following:
 - a) Description and evaluation of the features to be managed;
 - b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that may influence management;
 - c) Aims, objectives and targets for management - links with local and national species and habitat action plans;
 - d) Description of the management operations necessary to achieving aims and objectives;
 - e) Preparation of a works schedule, including annual works schedule;
 - f) Details and a timetable of the monitoring needed to measure the effectiveness of management;
 - g) Details of the persons responsible for the implementation and monitoring;
 - h) mechanisms of adaptive management to account for necessary changes in work schedule to achieve the required targets; and
 - i) Details of methodology and frequency of monitoring reports to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to assess biodiversity gain
 (To enhance biodiversity, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990)

- 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:
 - A. Identification of potentially damaging construction activities
 - B. practical measures and sensitive working practices to avoid or reduce impacts during construction on Great Crested Newts, reptiles, bats, badgers, INNS – including Method Statements & Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)
 - C. timing of works to avoid harm to nesting birds
 - D. responsible persons for overseeing sensitive works
 - E. use of protective fencing where required [...insert features to be protected...]
 The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

- The development hereby approved shall be implemented in strict accordance with the mitigation measures stated in section 11.6: Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects of the Environmental Statement Volume 1 (Envance, 2025).

- No development shall take place until a biodiversity enhancement scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. Enhancements shall include (but is not limited to) woodcrete/integrated bat boxes, bat tubes, woodcrete/integrated bird boxes, the make/model and their locations. Any enhancement measures need to be shown on all relevant submitted plans. All works are to proceed strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

- No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until an updated badger survey has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This survey is to be carried out within 3 months of the likely commencement of works on site. It is to include details on mitigation measures for

badgers if necessary (such as badger gates). All works are to proceed strictly in accordance with the approved document.
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
- All bat species are legally protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); as such, trees to be removed will require inspection for suitable features that could be used by roosting bats prior to felling. This can be carried out by the arborist completing the works, however if suitable roosting features are identified, evidence of bats, or indeed live bats are found, works should cease, and advice obtained from a licenced bat ecologist. - Japanese knotweed is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as plants that may not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. If it is necessary for Japanese knotweed to be removed, it is important to note that Schedule 9 invasive plants are classified as controlled waste and should be handled and disposed of accordingly at a licenced waste facility
IN THE CASE OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS ONLY: (Please confirm which condition(s) is/are being discharged)
N/A

PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT BASELINE FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)	
THIS IS THE MINIMUM NATIONAL ESSENTIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS (PPG paragraph 11) AND MUST BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO DETERMINATION:	
Confirmation that development is subject to statutory biodiversity gain condition	Y
Pre-development Habitat Plan of existing onsite habitat (to scale)	Y
Pre-development Habitat Value (on date of application or earlier)	N
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	N/A
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	N/A
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N/A
SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY: "Competent person" information (ie. qualifications, skills, experience)	N/A
BNG METRIC INFORMATION missing or incorrect:	
Incomplete or incorrect cells are shown in metric (eg. habitat quantity, type or condition, strategic significance)	Y

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)	
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT ESSENTIAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO DETERMINATION. Post-development information is indicative only ; final proposals must be confirmed at Biodiversity Gain Plan statutory condition stage.	
ON-SITE SIGNIFICANT* BNG is proposed (If Y, please see later table)	Y
OFF-SITE APPLICANT-OWNED BNG is proposed	N

(ie. Land shown on plan within the “blue line” boundary and inserted in “offsite” tab of statutory metric)	
PLEASE NOTE: Where applicant-owned off-site or significant on-site BNG proposals are present, these should be secured and monitored for 30 years. The determining authority is responsible for monitoring for compliance.	
OFF-SITE PURCHASE** of BNG	
BNG units purchase from a third party to achieve 10% BNG uplift	TBC
Statutory biodiversity credits	TBC
PLEASE NOTE**: Where purchased BNG units are proposed, any purchased units from the national register are secured and monitored for 30 years by conservation covenant, separately from this planning application process.	

POST DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: *TYPE OF SIGNIFICANT ON-SITE HABITAT PROPOSED: (using the current government definition ¹)		
SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness	Other Neutral Grassland + Urban Trees + Other broadleaved woodland + mixed scrub	7.80 + 1.62 + 1.40 + 0.07
Large number of units at Low Distinctiveness	N/A	
Significant increase in Distinctiveness, Condition or Area	N/A	

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 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

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer#significant-on-site-enhancements>

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.

