

CONSULTATION TEMPLATE RESPONSE FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ADVICE

COUNTY, DISTRICT OR BOROUGH	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
APPLICATION NUMBER	25/00819/OUT
ADDRESS	Forest Hill Golf And Country Club Markfield Lane Botcheston Leicester Leicestershire
DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	Outline planning permission for the erection of a 49 bedroom hotel, new access, car parking and facilities. (All matters reserved except access, appearance, layout and scale)
PLANNING CASE OFFICER	Alex Jelley
DEPARTMENT	Ecology
PLANNING ECOLOGY OFFICER	Michael McCoy
DATE OF COMMENTS	18 March 2026
ECOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:	
• BNG R2 (Elite Ecology, Feb 2026) • Elite Ecology Biodiversity Net Gain Report Feb 2026 Updated (Elite Ecology, Feb 2026) • Forest Hill Golf Elite Ecology New Habitat Map (Elite Ecology, Jan 2026) • Forest Hill MR20-076_New National Forest Planting Areas Blue line Dwg No MR20 – 076 (tel Landscape Architects, Feb 2026) • Location Plan- DRW No.F116(90)16 (MAC design consultants, Feb 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. • As per the previous ecology comments <i>"The Baseline habitat map does not include the ditches in either the on-site or off-site section. As these are present in the metric, please can these be added. We also request photos of the ditches as well"</i>. - While the new habitat map includes ditches in the southern off-site area, this appears to be a post-development map with the baseline map has not been updated to include the	

location of the baseline on-site ditches. Please can we also be provided with photos of the on-site ditch.

- *“Please can the on-site/off-site habitats (including ponds), hedgerows and line of trees be labelled in the baseline map and the BNG metric (filling in user comments).*
- *This is also to include which habitat parcels belong to which off-site area, as there are two separate off-site areas (north and south of red line boundary)”.*
 - while the woodland has been separated in the new habit map, this should also be in the baseline map for consistency. The same should also be applied to ponds of poor, moderate and good condition. On-site and off-site hedgerows and lie of trees should be labelled on the map. User comments in the BNG metric should be filled in, to make it clear which habitat parcel belongs were. When this is completed, we can agree on the baseline habitat and remove the holding objection.
- **Off-site habitat creation will need to be secured for next 30 years**

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 external lighting shall be installed on the site until details (including luminance levels and measures to minimise light spillage) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. External lighting shall only be installed in accordance with the approved details and shall not be replaced with any alternative lighting without the prior permission in writing of the Local Planning Authority.
- The development hereby approved shall be implemented in strict accordance with the measures stated in section 6.3 of the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Elite Ecology, Dec 2025).
- 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, bats, hedgehogs and reptiles (including management of land during interim to prevent re-colonizing prior to work commencement) C. timing of works to avoid harm to nesting birds D. responsible persons for overseeing sensitive works E. use of protective fencing where required The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.
ANY RECOMMENDED INFORMATIVES TO BE APPLIED:
N/A
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)	Y
Completed Metric Calculation Tool	Y
Statement of Habitat Degradation where present (with dates and details)	Y
Reason for proposing an earlier date if applicable (ie. degradation)	Y
Description of Irreplaceable Habitat where present	N/A
<u>SMALL SITES METRIC ONLY:</u> "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.	
<u>ON-SITE SIGNIFICANT*</u> BNG is proposed (If Y, please see later table)	N
<u>OFF-SITE APPLICANT-OWNED</u> BNG is proposed (ie. Land shown on plan within the "blue line" boundary and inserted in "offsite" tab of statutory metric)	Y

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	N
Statutory biodiversity credits	N

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 definition¹)

SIGNIFICANCE AS DEFINED IN PPG	POST DEVELOPMENT HABITAT TYPE PROPOSED	NUMBER OF UNITS
Medium or High Distinctiveness	N/A	
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
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	International and national site protection: Ramsar sites (from Ramsar Convention), Habitat and Birds Directives (Natura 2000 sites include

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

the protection of species and habitats	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.
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