Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

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Sent by email only to: planningadvice@sholland.gov.uk

12th April 2024

Dear Mr Niland,

H11-0120-24 – Land off Little London, Long Sutton: Proposed residential development (123 dwellings) - previously approved under H11-0398-12

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to register a **holding objection** on this application until Biodiversity Net Gain as a result of the development is incorporated into the design of the project, with the associated 30-year monitoring and management plan.

While we appreciate that planning was previously approved on this site, there have been significant changes made to the application, and the ecological value the proposed site holds is likely very different.

This site in within the 2km buffer zone of a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), and four priority habitats. Yet, no information regarding Biodiversity Net Gain, or ongoing management and monitoring of the site has been submitted. In England, BNG is mandatory under *Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).* Developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. While the initial application was submitted prior to the BNG legislation start date, it is expected that developments within the transition period should address the requirement. Each planning application should demonstrate how the natural environment has been assessed to ensure delivery of biodiversity net gain and contribution to a nature recovery network has been included. Net gains for biodiversity should contribute to the wider ecological network and the wider environmental landscape. Developers and Planning Authorities should be aware of local biodiversity strategies such as biodiversity opportunity mapping, local nature recovery strategies and biodiversity action plans. The initial landscape design should increase connectivity joining up new and existing areas of green space around and within the development to ensure that they do not become isolated by the built environment and allow movement of wildlife around the site and into the wider countryside.

We are in a climate and biodiversity crisis, and we all need to play our part in addressing that, as recognised by the UK Government in their 25-Year Environment Plan, where it is stated that protection is not enough anymore - we need to recover nature and the natural environment so it functions to deliver all the ecosystem services we require.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust hopes these comments are helpful at this stage and welcomes further discussion relating to the points covered.

In conclusion: Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would like to register a holding objection on this application pending the inclusion of Biodiversity Net Gain, and the associated plans and surveys.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, no. 461863 and is registered as a charity, no. 218895 VAT no. 613 9067 44

Yours sincerely

Hannah Curtis
Conservation Officer