

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

5th January 2024

Dear David Grant,

H14-1092-23 – Land north of Fengate Road, Pinchbeck: Demolition of agricultural building, erection of 5 dwellings including new access/road and change of use of agricultural land to residential.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to register a **holding objection** on this application until further ecological information has been submitted; and Biodiversity Net Gain as a result of the development is incorporated into the design of the project.

This site is within the 2km buffer zone of a protected Local Nature Reserve (Vernatts Drain), five Local Wildlife Sites, and seven Priority Habitats. While we acknowledge that an Initial Ecological Assessment has been provided, this exclusively considers Protected Species, and is not an ecological assessment of the site as a whole.

Further, no information regarding Biodiversity Net Gain, or ongoing management and monitoring of the site has been submitted. In November 2021 the Environment Bill gained Royal Assent to become an Act, which mandates Biodiversity Net Gain to a minimum of 10% to be delivered. Although not mandatory for TCPA applications until January 2024, it is expected that developments within this 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.

We suggest that a UK Habitats Assessment is undertaken on the site, with the data used to complete a biodiversity baseline calculation using the Defra Metric 4.0. From here, a plan to deliver a 10% minimum net gain for biodiversity can be created for the site, with a 30-year management and monitoring plan. 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 BNG 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.

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

Banovallum House
Manor House Street
Horncastle
LN9 5HF

01507 526667
info@lincstrust.co.uk
www.lincstrust.org.uk



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



In conclusion: Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would like to register a holding objection on this application pending ecological data submitted with the application, and Biodiversity Net Gain incorporated into the design of the project.

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

Yours sincerely

Hannah Curtis

Conservation Officer

