
From: Beth Fox <bfox@lincstrust.co.uk>
Sent: 17 April 2023 14:46
To: _planningadvice
Subject: H23-0274-23 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust response
Attachments: LWT response.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached the response to the planning H23-0274-23 (Demolition of existing barns and erection of five 4-bed 2-storey detached dwellings and 1 car port) from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Kind regards,

Beth Fox (she/her)
Conservation Officer
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Mobile: 07983 855472



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17 April 2023

Dave Gedney
Case Officer
Priory Rd
Spalding
PE11 2XE

Dear Dave Gedney,

H23-0274-23: Demolition of existing barns and erection of five 4-bed 2-storey detached dwellings and 1 car port at Orchard Farm Dowsdale Bank

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust wishes to register a **holding objection** on this application until further ecological surveys are conducted and biodiversity enhancement measures for the site submitted for comment.

We note that the initial biodiversity report is based on several walk-over visual studies by Swann Edwards Architecture Limited and the client. Any field surveys need to be undertaken by an independent qualified ecologist in order for the findings to be of use. This is of particular importance as protected species are suspected to be on site. We trust that Natural England have been consulted on this application as the impacts on these legally protected species is not for the Wildlife Trusts to comment upon.

We also note the lack of biodiversity enhancements included in this planning application. Due to the current biodiversity crisis current planning legislation, such as the NPPF and the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, call not only for a conservation of biodiversity, but also for a gain in biodiversity.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

Paragraph 174: *Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: (d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan

3.3.12 *Development proposals should also protect, and where possible enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and green infrastructure*

7.2.14 *Development can also incorporate a number of simple, low-cost measures to deliver biodiversity benefits and enhance priority habitats and species, such as, the use*

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of bat roost boxes, green roofs or walls, and integrating nesting opportunities into buildings and green infrastructure. The use of swift bricks on new developments in Boston in particular, would help minimise the decline in swifts, a priority species. This positive approach will also help the Local Planning Authorities fulfil their 'biodiversity duty' (identified by the Natural Environment Rural Communities Act 2006) and help improve biological resilience to climate change. Good practice can be found in the Climate Change Adaptation by Design - A Guide for Sustainable Communities⁵¹ and Planning for a healthy environment – good practice for green infrastructure and biodiversity

Each planning application should demonstrate how the natural environment has been assessed to ensure no net loss of biodiversity and how delivery of biodiversity net gain and contribution to a nature recovery network has been included.

In conclusion

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would like to register a **holding objection** on this application until further ecological information can be reviewed. We also require evidence how gains in biodiversity will be delivered as a result of this development.

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

Yours sincerely

Beth Fox

Conservation Officer

