Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2026 Sites

UKHAB SURVEY REPORT

3480652

JULY 2026

RSK wilding
BIGGER • BETTER • WILDER

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Title: **Hinckley and Bosworth 2026 Sites – UKHab Survey Report**

Client: **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council**

Office: **Stonehouse**

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00	22/07/2026	First issue	EP22	EC28	EC28

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Biocensus.

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CONTENTS

TABLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

1.1.1 This document has been prepared by RSK Wilding for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to provide a habitat baseline at a series of sites around the borough. These sites were provided to RSK Wilding by the Council.

1.1.2 Previously, 79 sites were surveyed and reported on in Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report (RSK Wilding, 2025a) and 10 more sites were surveyed and reported on in Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Additional Sites (RSK Wilding, 2025b). This report acts as an addendum to those previous assessments and assesses an additional three sites throughout the borough. This report should be read in conjunction with the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report and the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Additional Sites Report.

1.1.3 As in the previous Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report, the information gathered through this process will be used to inform Local Plan policy, allocations for development, the Strategic Economic Land Availability Assessment and criteria for assessing the sustainability of future development proposals. Where possible, the report will also illustrate at a high level the likely ecological constraints to any future development proposals as well as potential for targeted habitat restoration and enhancement at sites through biodiversity net gain (BNG) policy and those sites where existing baseline conditions might warrant Local Wildlife Site designation.

1.1.4 The document (in combination with its appendices) provides:

- A summary of methodology, including limitations and assumptions, for undertaking the UK Habitat (UKHab) survey and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA) survey;
- A summary of desk study results and UKHab survey results (see Appendix A);
- A summary of the baseline biodiversity value of habitats within the surveyed sites prior to construction;
- An overview of the other ecosystem services provided by the sites; and
- An evaluation of the suitability of sites for development, based on high level consideration of ecological constraints.

1.2 Landscape context

1.2.1 The Sites are located within the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth, within the county of Leicestershire. The Sites covered in this report are located throughout the borough with one in Markfield around 14 km north of the town of Hinckley, whist the remaining two sites were located in the surrounding villages of Burbage and Fenny Drayton.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk based study

2.1.1 Each site was subject to a desk based study to determine existing ecological information available, the broad potential of each site for biodiversity enhancements and the strategic significance of each site in the landscape and wider district. Detailed methodology is laid out in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025a).

2.2 UKHab and habitat condition assessment survey

2.2.1 A field survey was undertaken between 19th May – 5th June by suitably experienced Ecologist EP22 (MCIEEM) on the UKHab survey methodology (UKHab, 2023). Full methodology is available in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025a).

2.3 Quantifying baseline biodiversity value

2.3.1 The results of the field survey were used to carry out an assessment of the site's existing baseline biodiversity value using the Statutory Defra Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024b).

2.3.2 Details of the guidance followed and baseline biodiversity value calculation using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric is available in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025).

2.4 Selection of potential local wildlife sites

2.4.1 As part of the analysis undertaken for this report, sites were scrutinized to ascertain if they had any habitats considered to have high potential to become Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Sites identified previously are described in Section 3.5 of the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025a).

2.4.2 No further potential LWS sites have been identified in the additional three sites within this report.

2.5 Evaluation of sites' suitability for development

2.5.1 The suitability of the sites for development was assessed. Methodology for this can be found in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025a).

2.5.2 The Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C) contains a RAG rating for each site based on these criteria as well as an assessment of the suitability of each site to support protected species and which further surveys may be required in order to fully

assess the impacts of development on the site. Note this exercise is high level only and does not constitute a detailed ecological impact assessment.

2.6 Assumptions and limitations of field survey

2.6.1 An extensive botanical list of species was not compiled; however it was possible to sufficiently identify plants and indicator species to make an assessment of the habitat types present.

2.6.2 Unless adjacent to a public footpath, boundary habitats were only assessed from within the site.

2.6.3 All habitats were given a low strategic significance as the Sites were within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) meaning all baseline habitats would be classified as low strategic significance in line with guidance (DEFRA, 2025).

2.6.4 River condition assessments (or MoRPh surveys) were not undertaken for watercourses within or adjacent to Sites. Therefore the watercourse units present within LPR235 may be underreported within this assessment.

2.6.5 A lake naturalness assessment was not undertaken for the lake present in LPR 235. It has therefore been excluded from the BNG assessment.

2.6.6 Several areas within the sites were unable to be accessed during the survey, these comprised largely private houses and gardens. For these habitats, if habitat type could be established from adjacent land this was recorded. If not, habitat type was established from aerial imagery. A condition assessment of ‘moderate’ has been applied to all relevant habitats unable to be accessed.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

Designated sites

3.1.1 The desk study revealed that none of the three sites were located within a statutory or non-statutory designated site.

National character area

3.1.2 The sites were split between three National Character Areas (NCAs); Mease/Sence Lowlands (LPR235), Leicestershire Vales (LPR241), and Charnwood (LPR94B).

3.1.3 The descriptions of these NCAs are described in Appendix B and shown on Figure 2a.

Flood risk zones

3.1.4 None of the three sites were located in a flood risk zone.

Priority habitats

3.1.5 The priority habitat inventory was consulted, and no priority habitats were identified within two of the three sites. LPR235 contained lowland mixed deciduous woodland. This was not on the ancient woodland inventory.

National habitat mapping

3.1.6 LPR94B is in the Network Expansion Zone of a National Habitat Network mapping area This indicates that this site is therefore in a suitable location to create or enhance habitat to form ecological networks. These are detailed in Table 1. For more information about National Habitat Networks see Appendix D.

Table 1 - National Habitat Network mapping summary

National habitat mapping categorisation	Definition	Sites
Network Enhancement Zone 1	Land within close proximity to the existing habitat components that are more likely to be suitable for habitat re-creation for the particular habitat. These areas are primarily based on soils but in many cases has been refined by also using other data such as hydrology, altitude and proximity to the coast. This is termed the 'Network Enhancement Zone 1'.	None
Network Enhancement Zone 2	Land within close proximity to the existing habitat components that are unlikely to be suitable for habitat re-creation but where other types of habitat may be created or land management may be enhanced including delivery of suitable Green Infrastructure. This is termed the 'Network Enhancement Zone 2'.	None

National habitat mapping categorisation	Definition	Sites
Network Expansion Zone	Land within relatively close proximity to the Network Enhancement Zones 1 & 2 that are more likely to be suitable for habitat creation for the particular habitat and identifying possible locations for connecting and linking up networks across a landscape. This is termed the 'Network Expansion Zone'	LPR94B

Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity and wider environmental benefits (ACB)

3.1.7 The LNRS for Leicestershire includes Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity and wider environmental benefits (ACBs) and therefore locations where habitat enhancement and creation should be targeted.

3.1.8 All of the three sites contain ACBs. The measures of the ACBs are described in Table 2 below

Table 2 - Sites within ACBs and their measures

Site Name	ACB measures
LPR241	Protect, restore, and enhance existing green and blue spaces into favourable ecological conditions
LPR235	Protect and restore species rich grassland. Improve fish and other aquatic life passage by removing barriers like dams and weirs. Restore rivers in rural areas that have been artificially widened and straightened to support improved water quality and increased habitat Restore rivers that have been heavily modified in urban areas to improve water quality and habitat Enhance fish habitat through gravel bed restoration and instream structures Restore riparian habitats along waterbodies
LPR94B	Buffer and connect ancient and priority habitat woodlands to reduce fragmentation and create wildlife corridors

3.2 UKHab survey

3.2.1 An overview of the habitats present within each site can be found in the Site Description Spreadsheet in Appendix C. These habitats are mapped in Figure 3

3.2.2 All three Sites were predominantly agricultural. LPR235 was largely arable with sections of Modified grassland sheep pasture. The Site also contained some Lowland mixed deciduous woodland blocks with one area of Wet woodland and some Other woodland broadleaved and Other woodland mixed. There were smaller areas of Other neutral grassland and patches of Mixed and Bramble scrub. The Site contained several ponds

and one large lake with a small area of Reedbed. There were urban habitats present including farmyards, roads and buildings. LPR235 also contained many hedgerows and individual trees, ditches and a watercourse.

3.2.3 LPR241 comprised largely Other neutral grassland with some blocks of Other woodland broadleaved and Mixed and Bramble scrub. The centre of the Site contained a house and garden as well as some dilapidated outhouses. There were multiple hedgerows and individual trees present within the Site.

3.2.4 LPR94B comprised two arable fields with grassed margins and hedgerows. The field to the west of the Site appeared to be previously Other neutral grassland but the majority of this field was in use as a construction compound for the adjacent construction site.

3.3 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Baseline

3.3.1 A baseline metric calculation has been completed for each of the three surveyed sites. The Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C) includes the habitat, hedgerow and watercourse units for each site.

3.3.2 There was a total of 603.84 area habitat BUs and 195.81 hedgerow BUs across the three sites surveyed.

3.3.3 Two of the three sites contained no watercourse units. LPR235 contained ditches equating to 2.96 watercourse BUs. The Site also contained a river which was not subject to a condition assessment survey.

3.4 Sites with potential to be SSSI or LWS

3.4.1 Of the three sites surveyed , none were identified that could qualify as a SSSI or a LWS.

3.5 Ecological networks

3.5.1 There is no change proposed to the recommendations around ecological networks laid out in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025a).

3.6 Sites' suitability for development

3.6.1 The Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C) gives each site a RAG rating for its suitability for development. This is based on the significance of the baseline biodiversity including its BNG baseline value, the protection afforded to any habitats present and the likelihood of protected species to be using the site.

3.6.2 Of the three sites, LPR235 and LPR94B were over 80% cover of low distinctiveness habitats meaning that they have low baseline biodiversity value relative to their size indicating that they would be more suitable for development and would require a smaller amount of mitigation or offset to account for impacts.

3.6.3 The possible protected species which may be present within each site have also been identified within the Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C) however this is only indicative as further surveys would be required to determine the likely presence or

absence of any protected species. It is impossible at this stage to indicate what mitigation measures may be required for individual sites without knowing the impacts of any development and what protected species are present. Further surveys which may be required for each site have been included in the Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C).

3.6.4 Sites shown as green in Appendix C have a higher suitability for development. These sites appeared to be of relatively low ecological value containing a high proportion of low distinctiveness habitats such as cropland and were unlikely to support a large number of protected species, although further surveys would be required to confirm this prior to development.

3.6.5 Sites shown as amber in Appendix C had a medium development suitability. These sites generally contained a mix of low distinctiveness habitats and habitats of higher distinctiveness. While they may support some protected species, the numbers present are likely to be relatively low, although further surveys would be required to confirm this prior to development. These sites did not contain any protected sites or habitats.

3.6.6 Sites shown as red in Appendix C had a low development suitability. Sections of these sites were of high ecological suitability. Generally these sites contained a high proportion of habitats of moderate or above distinctiveness. They may also contain, irreplaceable or priority habitat. They also had a higher suitability for supporting relatively large numbers of protected species, although further surveys would be required to confirm this prior to development. It is important to note that although some of these sites contained priority habitats, development may still be possible within other areas of the site as long as these features were preserved with a suitable buffer.

3.6.7 Based on the criteria outlined above, one of the sites (LPR94B) was assessed as having a high suitability for development, one (LPR241) was assessed as having a medium suitability for development and one (LPR241) was assessed as having a low suitability for development.

3.7 Mitigation for protected species

3.7.1 All of the sites contained habitats suitable for nesting birds including hedgerows, trees or rough grassland. Impacts to nesting birds can be avoided by timing vegetation clearance to avoid the nesting bird season (April to September inclusive). A few of the sites may support protected or notable birds which may require suitable habitat to be provided if breeding habitat is lost. Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) were seen in multiple locations in both LPR94B and LPR235. Skylark is a species of principle importance in England and is ground nesting, often nesting in arable fields or rough grassland. In LPR235, a mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) was observed nesting within the lake and a linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) was heard singing. Linnet is a red list bird of conservation concern.

3.7.2 Larger sites, site's with more suitable habitat or sites where the proposal may impact bird species may require breeding bird surveys prior to any development so that bird populations on site can be understood.

3.7.3 All sites included trees and buildings some of which may be suitable for use by roosting bats. As part of this assessment these were not subject to ground level tree assessment and preliminary roost assessments to assess their suitability for roosts however these

would be required in any cases where development proposals for sites included impacting existing trees or buildings. These may indicate the need for further surveys to determine the presence or absence of roosting bats these may include trees climbing surveys. Larger sites or sites with more suitable bat foraging or commuting habitats would also likely require bat activity surveys which may include static detector surveys and walked transects to build a picture of how bats are utilising the site. Mitigation for loss of bat roosts is likely to include replacement roosts and habitats and would have to take place under a bat license for the development.

3.7.4 All of the sites contained some habitat suitable for badger (*Meles meles*) sett building. Badger are a mobile species who will build setts in many locations including at the base of hedgerows in agricultural fields. Therefore, badger surveys would likely be required to locate and classify any badger setts on site. Badger setts were recorded within site LPR235, some of which were large enough to be main setts. Badger setts may be present within other sites as a full survey was not undertaken as part of these works. If any development impacts an active badger sett a badger license for the development would have to be sought, mitigation would depend on the classification of sett impacted but may include avoidance of works within 30m of the sett or the provision of an artificial badger sett if a main badger sett needs to be closed.

3.7.5 Some of the sites contained habitats suitable for reptiles. If large areas of reptile habitat are being impacted then reptile surveys would be required. If these reveal a significant population of reptile species then further mitigation including replacement habitat and translocation may be required.

3.7.6 LPR235 contained several ponds and both of the other sites were adjacent to waterbodies. These would need to be subject to an eDNA survey in order to determine the presence or absence of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). If great crested newt are present within these ponds then further mitigation is likely to be required as the result of any development on site. This may include contribution to a district level licensing scheme or replacement habitat and translocation if necessary.

3.7.7 LPR235 contained a watercourse which may be suitable for otter or water vole. This site would likely require further surveys for these species in order to determine the use of the watercourse by otter or water vole. If they were found to be present further mitigation would be required which may include translocation and provision of alternative laying up or resting sites.

3.8 Achieving 10% BNG on developments

3.8.1 Any development on any of the sites selected should follow the mitigation hierarchy to ensure that BNG can be achieved and any protected species mitigation is incorporated.

This is likely to be easier to achieve when the baseline habitats are of low ecological value.

3.8.2 The mitigation hierarchy stipulates that impacts should always be avoided where possible. Where this is not possible, impacts should be minimised. Where impacts are necessary these must then be mitigated for.

3.8.3 As a general rule in any development which may take place within the sites the following features should be retained wherever possible:

- Priority habitats
- Irreplaceable habitats (these cannot be offset through BNG)
- Habitats within a Local Wildlife Site
- Habitats of high distinctiveness or baseline BNG value (such as woodland and ponds).

3.8.4 In order to achieve 10% BNG on any development which takes place, the above should be avoided with the majority of the impacts targeted on habitats with low baseline value for example arable habitat, Modified grassland or poor condition Other neutral grassland. This will reduce the amount of offsetting which is required to achieve 10% net gain on any development.

3.8.5 It is also important to note that the trading rules may affect where impacts should be targeted for specific sites. The trading rules are built into the metric and mean that some habitat types can only be replaced on a 'like for like' basis with the same specific habitat type or the same broad habitat type. Because of this impacts to medium and high distinctiveness habitat types may be harder to offset as the habitat needed to offset them may be impossible to create within the site.

3.8.6 Where new habitats are being created in order to offset the loss of habitats on site, enhancement of existing habitat can generate more units than the creation of a new habitat. These should be targeted to be in line with the LNRS and meet the aims of the ACB where appropriate.

3.8.7 Impacts to watercourses should be avoided where possible as these can be costly and complicated to offset.

3.9 Site allocations

3.9.1 As part of the assessment detailed in this report a further three sites potentially under consideration for site allocation were provided to RSK Wilding for survey and assessment. Details of the 87 sites previously assessed are provided in the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report (RSK Wilding, 2025a) and the Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites Report (RSK Wilding, 2025b), which should be read in conjunction with this report.

3.9.2 Within the 'Local Plan Regulation 18 (Summer 2024) Appendix 3: Proposed Site Allocations' there were four locations listed which were not included within either the original site list or the subsequent list of 10 additional sites considered (AS237, AS1029, LPR 235 A, and EMP1). Of these it is considered that LPR 235 A is the same as the LPR 235 site provided as one of the three additional sites considered in this report and

is therefore now suitable for comment regarding its appropriateness as a site with a housing allocation. However, the site boundary of the surveyed site and the site shown in the allocation appear to differ slightly at their eastern extents. The remaining three locations are not addressed by the additional sites considered in this report and therefore comment on their suitability as housing allocations cannot be drawn and they are therefore excluded from the Study.

3.9.3 Of the three sites considered in this report none were considered to contain habitats that would be suitable for LWS designation. With regards to development:

- One site, LPR 94B, was considered to have high suitability for development due to the limited biodiversity value of the habitats present, with the only habitats of note being hedgerows that could be avoided through appropriate development design.
- One site, LPR 235, was considered to have medium suitability for development as while a high percentage of the site comprised habitats of low biodiversity value areas of priority habitat and veteran trees were present and would require avoidance in any subsequent development.
- The final site, LPR 241, was considered to have low suitability for development as it was comprised of medium distinctiveness habitats with suitability for a range of protected species and a low percentage of low value habitats present.

3.9.4 Given the type and extent of habitats present at LPR 241 it is recommended that this site be excluded from the list of proposed site allocation.

3.9.5 While it is not considered that these potential constraints are sufficient to recommend the removal of the remaining two sites (LP 94B and LPR 235) from the list of proposed site allocations it is recommended that:

- Site LPR 94B (high suitability for development) be put forward as a proposed site for housing allocation ahead of other sites assessed as having medium suitability; and,
- That where sites with medium suitability (such as LPR 235) are put forward this is with the recommendation that development should look to retain features of biodiversity value (i.e. priority hedgerows) and that the development landscape plans and/or on-site BNG measures should include features in line with the habitat interventions that have been identified as a priority for the given location.

Policy review

3.9.6 A detailed review of the policies set out in the ‘Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan 2020 - 2041’ is provided in the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report (RSK Wilding, 2025), which should be read in conjunction with this report. The findings of that review are considered to be consistent and appropriate for the additional 10 sites assessed within this report and as such the policy review has not been duplicated here.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1.1 Three sites were subject to UKHab and condition assessment surveys.

4.1.2 The majority of the sites were found to be agricultural with the most abundant habitats being hedgerows, cereal crop, modified grassland and other neutral grassland. Woodland, scrub and pond habitats were also present. Urban habitats (such as hard standing and buildings) were also present within the majority of sites.

4.1.3 Of the three sites surveyed, none were identified as having potential to be designated as LWS. The sites have all been evaluated for their suitability for development based on their baseline biodiversity value and potential mitigation which would be required for loss of habitats and species habitat. The detailed results of this evaluation for each site can be found in the Site Description Spreadsheet (Appendix C) and the broad principles have been summarised in the results section.

4.2 Next steps

4.2.1 The Local Plan should be developed with this information in mind with the sites judged more suitable for development prioritised for this purpose and less suitable sites used for other purposes. The relative value of the habitats present in the baseline for each site as well as its ability to support protected species should be taken into account in this process in order to ensure that the best habitats in the borough are being conserved while sites with lower value are being taken forward for development.

4.2.2 In order to progress with development on any of the sites a preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) would likely have to be completed which would include a detailed site visit to update habitat mapping and indicate any further surveys that would be necessary.

4.2.3 LPR235 would require further river condition assessment surveys to determine the condition of watercourses within the site.

4.2.4 Any site taken forward for development will need a detailed masterplan that takes into account the information provided within this report and more, and puts biodiversity at the forefront of any development decisions made.

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APPENDIX A - FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site location plan
Figure 2a - Desk Study - NCA, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Figure 2b - Desk Study - National Habitat Network
Figure 2c - Desk Study - Priority Habitats Inventory –
Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats Map

448400 448600 448800 449000 449200 449400 449600 449800 450000 450200

310000 309800 309600 309400 309200 309000 308800 308600

LPR94B

Legend:

Site Boundary

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	09/06/2026	3480652	TG	SP	EP

HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:

Site Location Plan
Page 1 of 3

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Metres

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N W E S

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298000 297800 297600 297400 297200 297000 296800 296600 296400 296200 296000 295800 295600 295400 295200 295000 294800

LPR235

Legend:

Site Boundary

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	09/06/2026	3480652	TG	SP	EP

HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

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Site Location Plan
Page 2 of 3

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Metres

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LPR241

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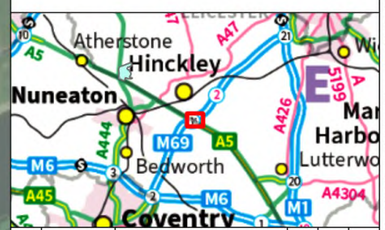
Site Boundary



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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

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Site Location Plan
Page 3 of 3

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310600 310400 310200 310000 309800 309600 309400 309200 309000 308800 308600 308400 308200 308000

LPR94B

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

National Character Area

- Charnwood

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Page 1 of 3

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299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000 295500 295000 294500 294000

LPR235

Legend:

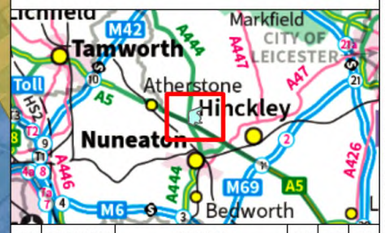
- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

National Character Area

- Leicestershire vales
- Mease/Sence lowlands

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest



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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

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Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
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LPR241

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

National Character Area

- Leicestershire vales
- Mease/Sence lowlands

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low

- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)

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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
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310600 310400 310200 310000 309800 309600 309400 309200 309000 308800 308600 308400 308200 308000

LPR94B

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Lowland fens
- Lowland meadows
- Reedbeds
- SSSI
- Restorable Habitat
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2
- Network Expansion Zone

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RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 1 of 3

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299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000 295500 295000 294500 294000

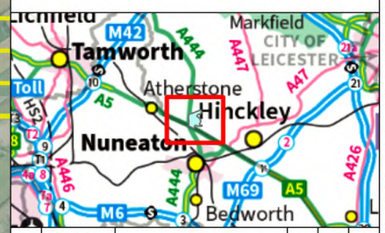
LPR235

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Lowland meadows
- SSSI
- Restorable Habitat
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2
- Network Expansion Zone



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 2 of 3

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LPR241

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2

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TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
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LPR94B

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland meadows
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Reedbeds
- Traditional orchard

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RSK biocensus
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TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
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299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000 295500 295000 294500 294000

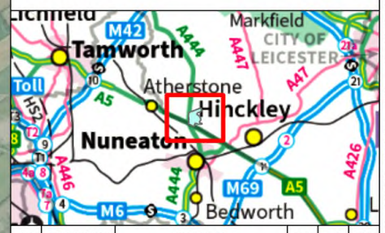
LPR235

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Lowland meadows
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Traditional orchard



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RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
Page 2 of 3

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LPR241

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Traditional orchard

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RSK biocensus
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TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
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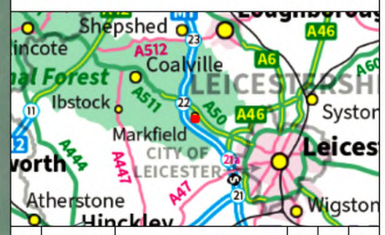
LPR94B

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- No/limited access

UKHab Habitats

- Cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland
- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Other developed land
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow



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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
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297600 297400 297200 297000 296800 296600 296400 296200 296000 295800 295600 295400

LPR235

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- No/limited access

UKHab Habitats

- Arable field margins tussocky
- Temporary grass and clover leys
- Rye-grass and clover ley
- Cereal crops
- Horticulture
- Reedbeds
- Other neutral grassland
- Modified grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Mixed scrub
- Willow scrub
- Rivers and lakes
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Built-up areas and gardens
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Other developed land
- Sparsely vegetated urban land
- Wet woodland
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Other broadleaved woodland
- Other woodland; mixed
- Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved
- Other coniferous woodland
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Rivers and streams
- Ditch
- Dry ditch
- Scattered tree

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HBBC 2026 Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
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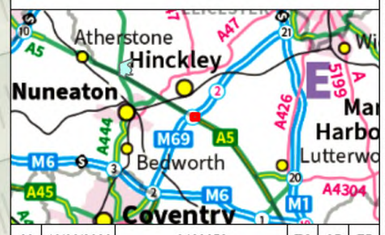
LPR241

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- No/limited access

UKHab Habitats

- Other neutral grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Mixed scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Other broadleaved woodland
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Scattered tree



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HBBC 2026 Sites

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EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
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APPENDIX B – NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
94 Leicestershire Vales	This is a large, relatively open, uniform landscape. Composed of low-lying clay vales, it is interrupted by varied river valleys. Settlements are visually dominant. Views to surrounding higher ground define the sense of place. The city of Leicester dominates the north-eastern corner of the NCA.	**SEO1** - Protect and appropriately manage the strong historic character and heritage and the geological assets within the rural and urban landscapes, maintaining the evidence of past land use and connections between agriculture, settlement pattern and topography, as well as the significant places and events that took place within the area, so that the area can be enjoyed by all. Ensure that development is fully integrated into and informed by the landscape. **SEO 2** - Manage, conserve and enhance the woodlands, hedgerows, streams and rivers – particularly the rivers Soar, Sence, Swift and Welland – in both rural and urban areas, to enhance biodiversity and recreation opportunities; improve water quality, flow and availability; benefit soil quality; and limit soil erosion. **SEO3** - Increase, manage and enhance the recreational assets, principally the rights of way network, country parks such as Watermead and historic linear features such as the canals. Improve access to these assets and the open countryside from the city of Leicester and surrounding rural communities and provide green infrastructure to help improve people's health and wellbeing. **SEO4**- Create new habitats where opportunities exist, such as woodlands and wetlands at old gravel extraction sites, to extend, link or buffer areas of existing habitat to reduce the impacts of fragmentation. Manage existing grassland, woodlands, coverts and spinneys that contribute to sense of place, enhancing biodiversity resilience and habitat networks.	LPR241

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
72 Mease/Sence Lowlands	The Mease/Sence Lowlands are a gently rolling agricultural landscape centred around the rivers Mease, Sence and Anker. The area extends across: Derbyshire in the north, Warwickshire in the south, Leicestershire in the east and Staffordshire in the west. With its towns lying on the fringes of the National Character Area (NCA), only a very small percentage of it is urban. These lowlands retain a rural, remote character, with small villages, red brick farmsteads and occasional historic parkland and country houses. The National Forest extends into the area north of the River Mease.	**SEO1** - Protect and appropriately manage this important network of natural and manmade rivers, streams, ponds, canals and other wetland habitats for its internationally important populations of white-clawed crayfish, spined loach and bullhead fish and their contribution to sense of place, water quality and climate regulation. **SEO2** - Manage and conserve the woodland habitat of the landscape and plan to expand appropriately scaled woodland cover, particularly in The National Forest, to increase people's access and enjoyment and to secure opportunities to enhance biomass and biodiversity and manage the impact of climate change. **SEO3** - Protect and appropriately manage the historic character, settlement pattern and features of this landscape, in particular its ancient woodlands, veteran trees, landscaped parklands and areas of archaeological interest, including ridge and furrow. **SEO4** - Protect the overall strong rural, open and tranquil character of this well-ordered lowland agricultural landscape; increase the opportunity to encourage sustainable food production; and enhance access to and enjoyment of the wider countryside for both residents and visitors.	LPR235

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
73 Charnwood	Charnwood is a unique landscape, marked out by its geology and upland qualities, which contrast with the surrounding gentle lowlands. It is formed by a mosaic of heathland, farmland, parkland and woodland. The underlying Precambrian geology has given rise to the distinct area of land characterised by exposures of rugged, rocky outcrops. It is a relatively well wooded landscape, with many areas of mixed, deciduous and coniferous woodlands. The western part of Charnwood lies within The National Forest, which offers people extensive access, environmental education and volunteering opportunities, and the chance to become involved with local community projects.	**SEO 1** - Protect, manage and promote the important geology and cultural interests of Charnwood, including the internationally significant Precambrian geology, the characteristic rocky outcrops, the unique country parks, the manor houses and the medieval monastic buildings, to ensure access and interpretation, and for people to enjoy and understand these important resources. **SEO2** - Conserve the strong settlement character of the inner Charnwood villages and ensure that development is sympathetic to the character of this rural NCA, surrounded by large and expanding urban areas. Maximise the green infrastructure and sustainable recreation opportunities. **SEO3 -** Protect and significantly increase the extent and quality of the unimproved grasslands, heathlands, open waterbodies and streams, to enhance biodiversity, ecological networks, water availability and quality, climate regulation and sense of place. **SEO4** - Where appropriate, manage and expand the native woodlands throughout Charnwood to reinforce the wooded character, to increase the potential for biomass, access and recreation, and to regulate climate change and water quality.	LPR94B

APPENDIX C – SITE DESCRIPTION SPREADSHEET

APPENDIX D - COMBINED HABITAT NETWORKS MAP

In May 2020, Natural England published a report, and a set of GIS map layers, setting out how the Lawton principles of 'more, better, bigger and joined' could be implemented across England through a process of more strategic habitat restoration (Edwards et al, 2020).

The 'Combined Habitat Networks Map' within this national GIS covers the whole of the country, and essentially makes recommendations for where habitat restoration and/or creation could best be undertaken to reconnect areas of Priority Habitat fragmented by historic habitat loss and current land management practices.

The mapping is divided into two categories: (A) Existing Habitat; and (B) Network Enhancement & Expansion. The intention is firstly to determine the current distribution of both high-quality and currently degraded Priority Habitat (and associated habitats) across England, and then to use this, alongside an understanding of soils, geology, hydrology and other biophysical parameters, to identify opportunities to enlarge, strengthen and connect these valuable habitats. This is important not only for enhancing the viability of habitat areas currently threatened by fragmentation but also for ensuring climate resilience.

The Existing Habitat mapping focuses on 23 Priority Habitats in England (as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act), and is divided into the following four components:

Primary Habitat: The priority habitat which is the focus of the individual habitat network (e.g. lowland heathland).

Associated Habitat: Other priority habitat types that form a mosaic or an ecologically coherent group within the landscape and may, for example, be essential for some species associated with the primary habitat.

Habitat Creation/Restoration: Areas where work is already under way to either create or restore the primary habitat.

Restorable Habitat: Areas of land, predominantly composed of existing semi-natural habitat, where the primary habitat is present in a degraded or fragmented form and which are likely to be suitable for restoration.

Similarly, the Network Enhancement & Expansion mapping is also further divided into four sub-components, as follows:

Network Enhancement Zone 1: Land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat. Factors affecting suitability include: proximity to primary habitat; land use (urban/rural); soil type; slope; and proximity to coast. Action to expand and join up existing habitat patches and improve the connections between them can be targeted here.

Network Enhancement Zone 2: Land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is less likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat. Action that improves the biodiversity value through land management changes and/or green infrastructure provision can be targeted here.

Fragmentation Action Zone: Land within Enhancement Zone 1 that connects existing patches of primary and associated habitats which are currently highly fragmented and where fragmentation could be reduced by habitat creation. Action to address the most fragmented areas of habitat can be targeted here.

Network Expansion Zone: Land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for expanding, linking/joining networks across the landscape (e.g. because the soils are potentially suitable for habitat creation for the specific habitat in addition to Enhancement Zone 1). Action to improve connections between existing habitat networks can be targeted here.