Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Additional Sites

UKHAB SURVEY REPORT

3480388

NOVEMBER 2025

RSK wilding
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RSK GENERAL NOTES

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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, 2025). This report acts as an addendum to that previous assessment and assesses an additional 10 sites throughout the borough. This report should be read in conjunction with the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey 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 area includes the town of Hinckley, and surrounding villages to the north. Most of the sites are located adjacent to or on the fringes of each town or village, and mostly comprise arable fields or grazed farmland and paddocks.

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, 2025).

2.2 UKHab and habitat condition assessment survey

2.2.1 A field survey was undertaken between 26th and 29th August 2025 by suitably experienced Ecologists Eve Proudlove (MCIEEM) and Mark Lang (CEcol, CEnv, FCIEEM) based on the UKHab survey methodology (UKHab, 2023). Full methodology is available in the main report (RSK Wilding, 2025).

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, 2025).

2.4.2 No further potential LWS sites have been identified in the additional ten 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, 2025).

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 Surveys were completed relatively late in the survey season (Sept) following a notably hot, and dry summer it is therefore possible that ditches may have been drier than usual and therefore vegetation not representative of a 'normal' year.

2.6.3 In addition the long dry spell meant that some classification of grasses and grassland habitats was restricted due to perished species samples and mowing having taken place.

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

2.6.5 Areas were assigned high strategic significance if they met all of the below criteria:

- Habitats within Areas that Could Become of particular importance for biodiversity and wider environmental benefits (ACB) (Leicestershire County Council, 2024);
- Habitats of medium distinctiveness and above,
- Habitats which were in good condition; and
- Habitats which met the priorities laid out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

2.6.6 All other habitats were given a low strategic significance.

2.6.7 Where a hedgerow forms the border of two adjacent sites it has been included in the metric calculator of both sites. While this may increase the risk of 'double counting' biodiversity units, in this case each site is being considered separately, and units are not being summed across sites. Additionally, it is thought that leaving hedgerows out of sites (because they are considered as part of an adjacent site) might downplay the biodiversity resource of the site from which it is excluded.

2.6.8 River condition assessments (or MoRPh surveys) were not undertaken for watercourses within or adjacent to Sites. Therefore the watercourse units present within some of the sites may be underreported within this assessment. This may be particularly relevant for LPR252 and LPR92.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

Designated sites

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

National character area

3.1.2 The sites were split between four National Character Areas (NCAs); Mease/Sence Lowlands, Leicestershire Vales, Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield and Charnwood. LPR252 lies within the Mease/Sence Lowlands area, LPR92, LPR1, LPR255, LPR254 and LPR216 within Leicestershire Vales, LPR232A within Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield, and LPR96, LPR227 and LPR152 within the Charnwood area. The descriptions of these NCAs are described in Appendix B and shown on Figure 2a.

Flood risk zones

3.1.3 None of the ten sites were located in a flood risk zone.

Priority habitats

3.1.4 The priority habitat inventory was consulted, and no priority habitats were identified within any of the ten sites.

National habitat mapping

3.1.5 LPR1 is located partially within Network Enhancement Zone 1 of a National Habitat Network mapping area for Lowland meadow. LPR96 and LPR227 are in the Network Expansion Zone of a National Habitat Network mapping area This indicates that these sites are therefore suitable locations 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'.	LPR1 (lowland meadows)
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	None

National habitat mapping categorisation	Definition	Sites
	delivery of suitable Green Infrastructure. This is termed the 'Network Enhancement Zone 2'.	
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'	LPR96 and LPR227

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

3.1.6 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.

3.1.7 Three of the ten sites fall within ACBs. These are LPR152, LPR227 and LPR96. The measures of the ACBs are described in Table 2 below

Table 2 - Sites within ACBs and their measures

Site Name	ACB measures
LPR152	Woodland measures (creating and maintaining woodland and wildlife corridors that connect woodland) and urban measures (tree planting, green spaces, habitat corridors between green spaces, managing buildings, SuDs and urban planning)
LPR227	Woodland measures (creating and maintaining woodland and wildlife corridors that connect woodland) and urban measures (tree planting, green spaces, habitat corridors between green spaces, managing buildings, SuDs and urban planning)
LPR96	Woodland measures (creating and maintaining woodland and wildlife corridors that connect woodland). Pond creation. Urban measures (protect, restore and enhance existing green and blue spaces).

3.2 UKHab and river condition assessments

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 The majority of the sites were agricultural, with five of the sites being farmed as pasture, comprised of either Other neutral grassland or Modified grassland. Four of the sites were arable land comprising fields of cereal crops. The remaining site (LPR1) was under active construction. There was no Lowland meadow, Acid grassland or Calcareous grassland types recorded.

3.2.3 Woodland was present in LPR254, LPR92 and LPR96, comprising Other woodland; broadleaved and Other woodland; mixed. There was no Lowland mixed deciduous woodland identified. A single area of Traditional orchard was found in LPR232A.

3.2.4 Small areas of scrub were found in LPR152, LPR216 and LPR227, classified as Blackthorn scrub and Mixed scrub comprising Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Willow (*Salix* sp.).

3.2.5 Urban habitats were also recorded in the majority of sites and comprised of Developed land; sealed surface, Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, Vegetated garden, Bare ground and Buildings.

3.2.6 Three of the sites (LPR92, LPR216 and LPR227) contained ponds, however none have been classified as Pond (Priority habitat)

3.2.7 Of the ten sites, three contained individual trees, all of which were Rural trees. There were no veteran or ancient trees identified.

3.2.8 All of the sites contained at least one hedgerow which made up the field boundaries. Most of these hedgerows would qualify as priority habitat, with only 1 containing a Non-native ornamental hedgerow which would not qualify.

3.2.9 Four of the sites contained some form of watercourse, with three containing at least one Ditch and two containing a watercourse qualifying as Other rivers and streams. These sites would require a MoRPh survey to assess their condition.

3.3 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Baseline

3.3.1 A baseline metric calculation has been completed for each of the ten 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 464.20 habitat BUs across the ten sites surveyed.

3.3.3 The number of hedgerow units across all ten sites should not be reported as a total as some hedgerows have been included in more than one site. i.e. where a hedgerow makes up the boundary of two sites.

3.3.4 There was a total of 2.98 watercourse units throughout the ten sites. This only includes Ditches. Sites containing 'Other rivers and streams' would require further survey before reporting the number of units generated by these features. Eight of the ten sites contained no watercourse units at all.

3.4 Sites with potential to be SSSI or LWS

3.4.1 Of the ten 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, 2025).

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 Three of the sites surveyed contained 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 a LWS, 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 LWS or 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, two of the sites were assessed as having a high suitability for development and the remaining eight were assessed as having a medium 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. A group of grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*) were seen within LPR216. Grey partridge are on the red list of birds of conservation concern

meaning their population is declining. 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.

3.7.2 All sites included trees 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 to assess their suitability for roosts however these would be required in any cases where development proposals for sites included impacting existing trees. 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.

3.7.3 Almost 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. Evidence of badger was recorded within site LPR92 in the form of two outlier badger setts during the surveys. 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.

3.7.4 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.

3.7.5 Three of the sites contained a pond. 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.

3.7.6 Three of the sites contained a watercourse which may be suitable for otter or water vole. These sites 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 Biodiversity Net Gain 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 at 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 total of 10 sites potentially under consideration for site allocation, were provided to RSK Wilding for survey and assessment. Details of the 77 sites previously assessed are provided in the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan UKHab Survey Report (RSK Wilding, 2025), 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 list of 10 additional sites considered in this report (AS237, AS1029, LPR 235 A, and EMP1), as such comment on the suitability of these sites for housing allocations cannot be drawn. These sites were excluded from the Study as they are either currently progressing through the planning system via live applications or their ecological evidence is being addressed within separate supporting documentation.

3.9.3 Of the remaining locations detailed in the 'Local Plan Regulation 18 Summer 2024 Appendix 3: Proposed Site Allocations' none matched any of the additional 10 sites considered in this report.

3.9.4 A subsequent Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation was undertaken between October and November 2025. Within 'Appendix 3: Proposed Site Allocations', one site from the Addendum Report and twelve sites from the original Study were included. It should also be noted that some site references have changed since the original Study and the publication of the Regulation 18 Consultation. Certain sites have not been assessed within this report as their ecological evidence is provided within separate supporting documentation.

3.9.5 Of the 10 sites considered in this report none were considered to contain habitats that would be suitable for LWS designation, with the sites considered to be of either medium (LPR232A, LPR254, LPR255, LPR152, LPR96 and LPR1) or high (LPR252, LPR92, LPR227 and LPR216) suitability for development. In the case of sites with medium suitability for development the primary constraints related to the presence of priority habitats, its location in an area identified as a priority for certain habitat interventions and / or the presence of specific features that may support protected species.

3.9.6 While it is not considered that these potential constraints are sufficient to recommend the removal of these sites from the list of proposed site allocations it is recommended that:

3.9.7 Sites with high suitability for development are put forward as proposed site allocations ahead of those with medium suitability; and,

3.9.8 That where sites with medium suitability are put forward this is with the recommendations that development should look to retain features of biodiversity value (i.e. priority hedgerows) and should development landscape plans and/or on-site BNG measures in line with the habitat interventions that have been identified as a priority for a given location.

Policy review

3.9.9 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 Ten 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. A smaller number of sites also contained some woodland, scrub and pond habitats. Urban habitats (such as hard standing and buildings) were also present within the majority of sites.

4.1.3 Of the ten 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 LPR252 and LPR92 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

437200 437400 437600 437800 438000 438200 438400 438600 438800 439000 439200 439400 439600 439800 440000

295400 295200 295000 294800 294600 294400 294200 294000 293800 293600 293400 293200

LPR252

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Site Location Plan
Page 1 of 6

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LPR1

LPR92

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Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

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Site Location Plan
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Site boundary

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309800 309700 309600 309500 309400 309300 309200 309100 309000 308900 308800

LPR96

Legend:

Site boundary

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:

Site Location Plan
Page 5 of 6

0 50 100 150
Metres
SCALE: 1:4,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 1 - Site Location Plan.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:

453000 453200 453400 453600 453800 454000 454200 454400 454600 454800

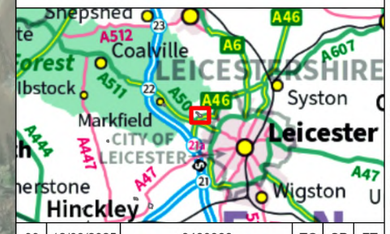
308800 308600 308400 308200 308000 307800 307600 307400

LPR227

LPR152

Legend:

Site boundary



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:

Site Location Plan
Page 6 of 6

0 75 150 225
Metres
SCALE: 1:6,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 1 - Site Location Plan.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:

436000 437000 438000 439000 440000 441000 442000 443000 444000

299000 298000 297000 296000 295000 294000 293000

LPR1

LPR92

LPR252

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)

National Character Area

- Leicestershire vales
- Mease/Sence lowlands

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Page 1 of 4

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Metres
SCALE: 1:27,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2a - Desk Study - NCA,FR,DS.aprx

444500 445000 445500 446000 446500 447000 447500 448000 448500 449000 449500 450000

300500 300000 299500 299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000

LPR255
LPR254
LPR216

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)

National Character Area

- Leicestershire vales

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Page 2 of 4

0 230 460 690
Metres
SCALE: 1:18,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2a - Desk Study - NCA,FR,DS.aprx

441200 441400 441600 441800 442000 442200 442400 442600 442800 443000 443200 443400 443600 443800 444000 444200 444400 444600 444800 445000 445200 445400

306800 306600 306400 306200 306000 305800 305600 305400 305200 305000 304800 304600 304400 304200 304000 303800 303600 303400

LPR232 A

Legend:

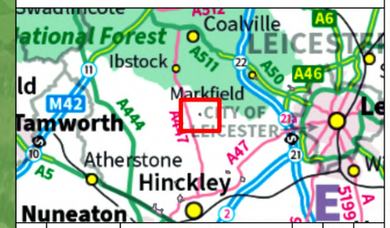
- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)

National Character Area

- Leicestershire vales
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire coalfield

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Page 3 of 4

0 160 320 480
Metres
SCALE: 1:13,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2a - Desk Study - NCA,FR,DS.aprx

448000 448500 449000 449500 450000 450500 451000 451500 452000 452500 453000 453500 454000 454500 455000 455500

311500 311000 310500 310000 309500 309000 308500 308000 307500 307000 306500 306000 305500

LPR96

LPR227

LPR152

Legend:

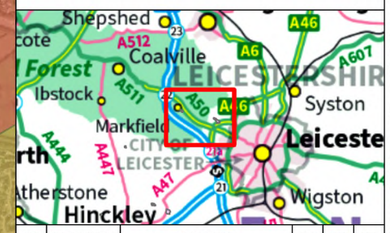
- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site (current/ potential/candidate/historic)

National Character Area

- Charnwood
- Leicestershire vales
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire coalfield

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (Environment Agency)

- High
- Medium
- Low



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	12/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2a:
Desk Study Information
NCAs, Flood Risk and Designated Sites
Page 4 of 4

0 290 580 870
Metres
SCALE: 1:23,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2a - Desk Study - NCA,FR,DS.aprx

436000 437000 438000 439000 440000 441000 442000 443000 444000

299000 298000 297000 296000 295000 294000 293000

LPR1

LPR92

LPR252

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Ancient woodland
- Lowland meadows
- Traditional orchard
- PHI Other
- SSSI
- Habitat Restoration-Creation
- Restorable Habitat
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2
- Network Expansion Zone

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 1 of 4

0 340 680 1,020
Metres
SCALE: 1:27,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2b - Desk Study - NHN.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats):
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

444500 445000 445500 446000 446500 447000 447500 448000 448500 449000 449500 450000

300500 300000 299500 299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000

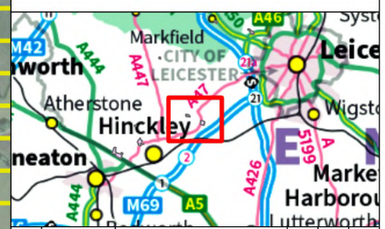
LPR255
LPR254
LPR216

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Lowland fens
- Restorable Habitat
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2
- Network Expansion Zone



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 2 of 4

0 230 460 690
Metres
SCALE: 1:18,000 @ A3

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Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2b - Desk Study - NHN.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats):
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306800 306600 306400 306200 306000 305800 305600 305400 305200 305000 304800 304600 304400 304200 304000 303800 303600 303400

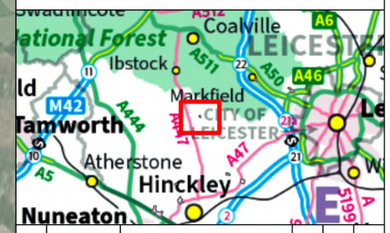
LPR232 A

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Lowland meadows
- PHI Other
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Expansion Zone



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 3 of 4

0 160 320 480
Metres
SCALE: 1:13,000 @ A3

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REV 00

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats):
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2b - Desk Study - NHN.aprx

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311500 311000 310500 310000 309500 309000 308500 308000 307500 307000 306500 306000 305500

LPR96

LPR227

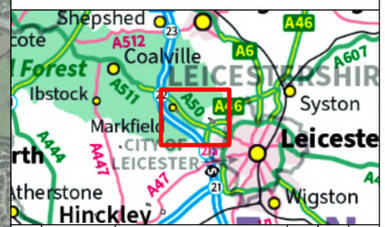
LPR152

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats)

- Ancient woodland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- Purple moor grass & rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Wood pasture and parkland
- PHI Other
- SSSI
- Habitat Restoration-Creation
- Restorable Habitat
- Fragmentation Action Zone
- Network Enhancement Zone 1
- Network Enhancement Zone 2
- Network Expansion Zone



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Desk Study Information
National Habitat Networks
Page 4 of 4

0 290 580 870
Metres
SCALE: 1:23,000 @ A3

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Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2b - Desk Study - NHN.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats):
Site boundary:

436000 437000 438000 439000 440000 441000 442000 443000 444000

299000 298000 297000 296000 295000 294000 293000

LPR1

LPR92

LPR252

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland meadows
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Traditional orchard

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
Page 1 of 4

0 340 680 1,020
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SCALE: 1:27,000 @ A3

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REV 00

Priority Habitats Inventory:
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2c - Desk Study - PHI.aprx

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300500 300000 299500 299000 298500 298000 297500 297000 296500 296000

LPR255

LPR254

LPR216

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland fens
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Traditional orchard

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
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Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
Page 2 of 4

0 230 460 690
Metres
SCALE: 1:18,000 @ A3

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Priority Habitats Inventory:
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:

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306800 306600 306400 306200 306000 305800 305600 305400 305200 305000 304800 304600 304400 304200 304000 303800 303600 303400

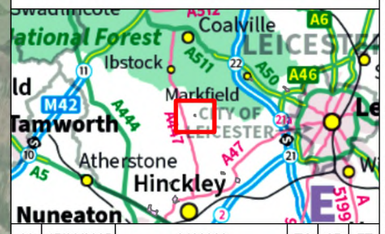
LPR232 A

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

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



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
Page 3 of 4

0 160 320 480
Metres
SCALE: 1:13,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Priority Habitats Inventory:
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2c - Desk Study - PHI.aprx

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311500 311000 310500 310000 309500 309000 308500 308000 307500 307000 306500 306000 305500

LPR96

LPR227

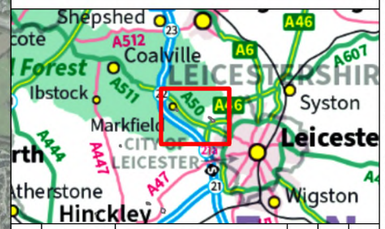
LPR152

Legend:

- Site boundary
- 1km site buffer

Priority Habitats Inventory

- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Traditional orchard



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Desk Study Information
Priority Habitats Inventory
Page 4 of 4

0 290 580 870
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SCALE: 1:23,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 2c - Desk Study - PHI.aprx

Priority Habitats Inventory:
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

437800 438000 438200 438400 438600 438800 439000 439200

295000 294800 294600 294400 294200 294000 293800

LPR252

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Other neutral grassland
- Modified grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Suburban mosaic of developed and natural surface
- Sparsely vegetated urban land
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Other rivers and streams
- Ditch
- Dry ditch
- Scattered tree

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 1 of 8

0 60 120 180
Metres
SCALE: 1:5,100 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:

440600 440700 440800 440900 441000 441100 441200 441300 441400 441500 441600 441700 441800

296200 296100 296000 295900 295800 295700 295600 295500 295400 295300 295200

LPR92

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Arable field margins tussocky
- Cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Other coniferous woodland
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Ditch
- Scattered tree

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 2 of 8

0 40 80 120

Metres

SCALE: 1:3,800 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022
© Crown copyright 2025 OS AC0000868432

440400 440450 440500 440550 440600 440650 440700

297650 297600 297550 297500 297450 297400

LPR1

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Arrhenatherum neutral grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 3 of 8

0 10 20 30
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:

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298900 298850 298800 298750 298700 298650 298600 298550 298500 298450

LPR255

LPR254

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Other neutral grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Suburban mosaic of developed and natural surface
- Other broadleaved woodland
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Line of trees

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 4 of 8

0 20 40 60
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,700 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

447800 447900 448000 448100 448200 448300 448400 448500 448600

298100 298000 297900 297800 297700 297600 297500

LPR216

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Cereal crops
- Willow scrub
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 5 of 8

0 30 60 90

Metres

SCALE: 1:2,600 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

443150 443200 443250 443300 443350 443400 443450 443500

305400 305350 305300 305250 305200 305150 305100

LPR232 A

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Other neutral grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Buildings
- Suburban mosaic of developed and natural surface
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Scattered tree

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 6 of 8

0 10 20 30
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,300 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

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World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:

449500 449550 449600 449650 449700 449750 449800 449850 449900 449950

309500 309450 309400 309350 309300 309250 309200 309150

LPR96

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Modified grassland
- Other woodland; mixed
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Other rivers and streams

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 7 of 8

0 10 20 30
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,500 @ A3

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Document Path: C:\OneDrive\RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites\02 - APRX\3480388 - Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitats.aprx

World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Site boundary:
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453300 453400 453500 453600 453700 453800 453900 454000 454100

308600 308500 308400 308300 308200 308100 308000 307900

LPR227

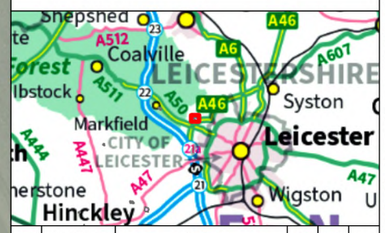
LPR152

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Mixed scrub
- Blackthorn scrub
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Dry ditch
- Scattered tree



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	15/09/2025	3480388	TG	SP	FT

Hinckley and Bosworth Additional Sites

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitats Map
Page 8 of 8

0 30 60 90

Metres

SCALE: 1:2,700 @ A3

N W E S

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World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Scattered tree:
Site boundary:

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.	LPR92, LPR1, LPR255, LPR254 and LPR216

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
		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.	
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.	LPR252

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
		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.	
71 Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	The Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield landform consists of a plateau with unrestricted views of shallow valleys and gentle ridges that become less pronounced in the south due to a layer of glacial till. To the east the land rises steeply, affording views of the Charnwood National Character Area (NCA). Ancient woodland straddles part of the boundary in the north, where the land falls away affording views of the wooded rolling landscape of the Melbourne Parklands NCA. The River Mease Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) forms part of the boundary with the Mease/Sence Lowlands NCA in the south-west and the Leicestershire Vales NCA forms a less visually defined border in the south.	**SEO1** - Protect and manage the area's riverine and flood plain environment, its manmade and natural wetland habitats, especially the River Mease for its internationally and nationally important species and range of river plants, for the benefit of biodiversity, sense of place, water quality, recreation, geodiversity and climate regulation. **SEO2** - Manage and conserve ancient and plantation woodland and plan appropriately scaled new woodland cover, particularly in The National Forest; restore and reinstate hedgerows and hedgerow trees and increase biomass provision, timber supply and biodiversity that will mitigate the impact of climate change and enhance the experiential qualities of the area. **SEO 3** - Protect and manage the industrial/mining heritage of the coalfield and wider historic landscape; balance the needs of forestry, commercial, industrial and agricultural growth with the developing visitor economy and maintain a high level of public access to the wealth of recreational experiences the National Character Area offers.	LPR232A

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
		SEO4 - Take an integrated approach to managing the natural environment that reflects the strong link between geology and its influence on landscape, biodiversity, industrial development, heritage and settlement pattern of the National Character Area; promote greater understanding of the contemporary link between wildlife and geodiversity, particularly in the distribution of habitats and species, and recognise the importance of former extraction sites for both geodiversity and biodiversity.	
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	**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.	LPR96, LPR227 and LPR152

NCA	NCA description	NCA targets	Sites within this NCA (either completely or partially)
	chance to become involved with local community projects.	**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.	

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.