

From: [Nina Wilson](#)
To: [West Burton C](#)
Subject: West Burton C - Written Questions & Request for Information (Ref: 20022801) - Ecology Comments
Date: 06 December 2019 10:08:01

Dear Sir/Madam

In relation to question 3.12:

The applicant proposes to enhance the ecological value of an area identified at Bole Ings, to compensate for the net loss of habitat arising from the proposed scheme. They will use the Defra offsetting metric with the aim of demonstrating an uplift in value of the Bole Ings area arising from their enhancement works, sufficient to deliver no net loss of biodiversity. However, the area in question was previously enhanced as a requirement of another planning application at the site, and is, ostensibly, already an area of species-rich grassland - although there are no surveys available to demonstrate the current status of this area, and the offsetting metric calculation has not yet been carried out. The pertinent issues are that:

- The area in question at Bole Ings should already have been restored to species-rich grassland
- If the area is not already species-rich grassland, then this suggests that the requirements of the aforementioned planning permission were not properly implemented
- If the area is species-rich grassland, then the potential to further increase the value of this area will be limited.

If the latter is true, then it is not certain that the necessary level of uplift in ecological value will be achieved, which is where the suggestion came from that additional land may be required. This is also why in the SoCC it is recognised that the Defra offsetting metric and LBMEP provide an appropriate *framework*, but that an agreement on all details of proposed enhancements within the Bole Round area remains to be agreed. In short, there is a risk that the necessary level of ecological compensation cannot be achieved within the Bole Ings area.

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