



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

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| Application No | 2025/0983 |
| Proposal | Change of use of the existing caretakers bungalow into a school day nursery (Use Class F1(a)) with associated alterations to external appearance; and works to wider school site including extension to car park, new external play areas and boundary treatments (Part Retrospective). |
| Address | The Mill Academy, Lobwood, Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley, S70 5EP |
| Date of Consultation Reply | 21/11/2025 |
| Consultee | Claire Wilson, Planning Ecologist |

Consultation Assessment and Justification

A BNG assessment and statutory metric have been provided to support the application. I have some minor comments regarding the assessment, see below. Please note, some of the comments relate to post development habitats within the metric and at this stage, do not have to be addressed. However, to discharge the Biodiversity Gain Condition they would need to be completed.

- There is an error within metric - For on-site area habitats, the total area of lost habitat was found to be 0.1 ha, and the total area of created habitat was found to be 0.09 ha. These areas should be equal. The site area is given as 0.20 ha on the start page, yet the total habitat area within the baseline total 0.21. This should be addressed.
- The survey was undertaken on the 17th October, outside optimal period and no justification provided as to why the survey is considered appropriate.
- Ideally condition assessments should be provided within the NE template for ease of completion and review.
- It is not clear within the report which habitats were cleared prior to an assessment taking place, clarification is sought on this. The ecologist should note the degradation rules which apply to habitats cleared prior to an ecological assessment. All baseline habitats have been assessed as poor. Was there evidence on site to confirm this?
- The metric indicates willow scrub in good condition can be created post development. However, I do not agree that this is realistic or achievable. For example, how will the following conditions be met within a small area? It is more realistic to achieve moderate condition willow scrub.
 - The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.
 - There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.
 - Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran³) shrubs are all present.
 - If willow scrub is not achievable, I would advise on the planting of scattered trees throughout the site. There is also the potential to enhance the retained modified grassland, in addition to this.
- With regards to the enhancement of trees, which condition criteria are they anticipated to achieve post development? The current condition assessment for the baseline states the following...
 - More than 70% of the scattered trees are native, the trees are not mature, the trees are subject to management due to their location in school grounds, there are no natural ecological niches and less than 20% of the canopy is oversailing vegetation underneath.



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- There is no assessment of the building on site and its potential to support roosting bats. However, following a review of site plans it appears that works are restricted to internal renovations and no works to the walls or roof will take place.

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| | Defer for amends/further information* | |
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*Delete as applicable

Consultation Suggested Conditions:

Consultation Informative(s):

Planning Obligations required: