



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2026/0650
Proposal	Erection of building for vehicle maintenance (Use Class Sui Generis) and associated infrastructure including fuelling facilities; truck and plant wash facilities with surfacing works and formation of parking, following the demolition of existing buildings and structures.
Address	Wordsworth Business Park Whaley Road, Barugh, Barnsley, S75 1FJ
Date of Consultation Reply	18/09/2026
Consultee	Katie Lawrence, Planning Ecologist

Consultation Assessment and Justification

Thank you for consulting me regarding the above application. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment with associated biodiversity metric and condition assessment sheets have been submitted in support of the application. The documents submitted are largely satisfactory, with only minor queries set out below:

- The PEA sets out that habitats on site are of limited value, comprising large areas of hardstanding and artificial surfacing with small areas of scrub and amenity grassland. The use of the site by protected/priority species is limited to nesting birds and precautionary works have been recommended in relation to these species.
- A cotoneaster listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was identified within the site. The PEA recommends its removal as part of the works to avoid the spread of this species to the wider area.
- When referring to the government's MAGIC website, there appears to be a drain to the eastern boundary of the site. This is not mentioned within the PEA. Can the applicant's ecologist confirm if the drain is present/absent? The drain would need to be incorporated within the BNG assessment if present.
- The BNG calculation indicates a gain of 0.37 habitat units (75.82%) through the retention of some habitats on site and the creation of shrub and grassland habitats.
- The BNG assessment report and baseline tab of the metric assign a condition of good to the area of modified grassland, but the condition assessment sheet indicates that it achieves a condition of moderate. In addition, the bare ground habitat condition is set to poor within the report and metric; however, the condition assessment sheet indicates that a moderate condition was achieved. When amending the metric accordingly a gain of 0.26 units (47.96%) is achieved and therefore the BNG requirement can still be met; however, these discrepancies should be reviewed and any necessary amendments made to ensure consistency.
- Shrub planting, a medium distinctiveness habitat of poor condition is proposed to the eastern and northern boundaries of the site to mitigate the loss of existing scrub and also assist in achieving over a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Other habitats proposed for retention and creation are of low distinctiveness. Although only poor condition native shrub habitat is targeted, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) condition is still required as per the thresholds set within the Biodiversity Appendix of our local validation requirements. Native shrub is a medium distinctiveness habitat and the extent of planting proposed will aim to enhance habitat connectivity within the surrounding area as set out within the PEA. On this basis, it is considered that the management and monitoring of the habitat should be secured appropriately.

NO OBJECTION*

**Defer for amends/further
information***

OBJECT*