



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2026/0088
Proposal	Retrospective application for the construction of a new vehicular access track and associated security fencing to support the operation and maintenance of a new Sewage Pumping Station (SPS)
Address	Land to the North of Balk Farm Court, Birdwell, Barnsley
Date of Consultation Reply	16/07/2026
Consultee	Katie Lawrence, Planning Ecologist

Consultation Assessment and Justification

Thank you for consulting me in relation to the above application. My comments in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

- The proposals site is located within an impact risk zone of the Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Natural England list developments involving infrastructure such as roads and discharge of water or liquid waste to ground or to surface water as those where consultation with Natural England would be required. The Planning, Design and Access Statement submitted sets out that discharge of water will result from the proposals and therefore it is assumed that consultation with Natural England is necessary.
- The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) submitted is an update and it recommends that the original PEA report is referenced. Can this please be provided?
- The PEA sets out the presence of four Local Wildlife Sites within 2km of the proposals site. No adverse impact upon these sites is anticipated as a result of the proposals.
- The PEA provide descriptions of habitats present on site and that these are largely of low conservation value and do not represent habitats of principal importance/priority habitats.
- The PEA recommends that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is produced which would set out precautionary working methods in relation to protected nature conservation sites, protection of retained habitats and precautionary working methods in the interest of amphibians and reptiles, mammal species such as badgers, hares, hedgehog, bats, nesting birds and invasive species. Has a CEMP been produced and can the applicant confirm whether works adhered to this?
- The PEA sets out that the development adheres to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements. As this is a retrospective application BNG is not applicable; however, biodiversity enhancements should be incorporated on site in line with the NPPF, Planning Policy BIO1 and the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD. Such enhancement measures should include appropriate native landscaping, the provision of bat and bird boxes mounted on poles, amphibian and reptile hibernacula, etc. The application should be supported by a plan indicating biodiversity enhancement which will be adopted.

NO OBJECTION*

**Defer for amends/further
information***

OBJECT*