



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2025/1040
Proposal	Demolition of the existing bungalow to create additional car park spaces and school forest garden, including associated landscaping works
Address	School Bungalow, Worsbrough Bank End Primary School, Underwood Avenue, Worsbrough Dale, Barnsley, S70 4AZ
Date of Consultation Reply	06/01/2026
Consultee	Katie Lawrence, Planning Ecologist

Consultation Assessment and Justification

Thank you for consulting me regarding the above application. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Bat Survey Results report and a Biodiversity Impact Assessment report with associated Statutory Biodiversity Metric and condition assessment sheets have been submitted in support of the application. The documents submitted are largely satisfactory, with minor amendments required to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. My comments in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

The PEA sets out the findings of a habitat walkover survey and assessment of the site to support protected and priority species. Recommendations were made within the report for a further survey of the building on site in relation to roosting bats (results of which are detailed below) and precautionary measures to be adopted during construction works and once the site is operational for nesting birds, badgers, hedgehog, bats and reptile species. Recommendations were also made for the installation of bird and bat boxes on trees on/nearby the site, which are welcomed and can be secured by planning condition. Invasive species were recorded on site including a species of cotoneaster, which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and buddleja. The PEA states that recommendations for the removal of these species are set out within chapter 7 of the report but this appears to be missing. Could this be included to avoid the requirement of a Construction Environment Management Plan condition? Also the PEA sets out that consultation with Natural England will be required for this application; however, when referring to the governments MAGIC website, the development type at such a distance from the nearby Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI indicates that consultation with Natural England is unnecessary.

Bat Survey Results

Two emergence surveys were undertaken in July and August 2025 following the initial inspection assessing the building on site as having a moderate potential to support roosting bats. Methodologies within the Bat Conservation Trust survey guidance were followed and surveys were carried out by appropriately qualified ecologists. A low level of bat activity was recorded during the surveys, and no bats were recorded emerging from the building on site suggesting the likely absence of roosting bats. Precautionary advice is given if bats are found during proposed demolition works.

Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Statutory Metric & Condition Assessment Sheets

The metric calculation indicates that the proposals will result in a gain of 0.14 habitat units (23.82%) and a gain in 0.59 hedgerow units (no percentage change as there are no hedgerows currently on site). The BNG requirements have been met on site through the proposals for a school garden comprising areas of grassland, shrubs and native tree planting. Due to the small numbers of trees proposed, on-site, enhancements aren't deemed to be significant and the requirement for a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan is considered to be disproportionate. To secure the proposed landscaping, a planning condition for a five-year Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP) is considered appropriate.

NO OBJECTION*

Defer for amends/further information*

OBJECT*



BARNSLEY

Metropolitan Borough Council