



DATE: 29/07/2026

BY EMAIL ONLY: developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk

2026/0422 | Residential development of up to 144 units and associated works at land to the south of Weetshaw Lane Roundabout, Cudworth, Barnsley

Policy BI01 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) of the Barnsley Local Plan¹ (Adopted January 2019) states:

"Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:

Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan.

Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments.

Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.

Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.

Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified.

Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.

Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured.

¹ [Local Plan](#)





Development which adversely effects a European Site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative option and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)."

Policy GS1 (Green Space) of the Barnsley Local Plan states:

"[...] Green Spaces are green open areas which are valuable for amenity, recreation, wildlife or biodiversity and include types such as village greens, local open spaces, country parks, formal gardens, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, recreation grounds, sports pitches and parks...."

In order to improve the quantity, quality and value of green space provision we will require qualifying new residential developments to provide or contribute towards green space in line with the standards set out in the Green Space Strategy and in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure and Planning Obligations Policy. The Supplementary Planning Document 'Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments' offers guidance to developers on what will be expected in terms of open space provision in order to achieve those standards.

Where there is a requirement to provide new green space an assessment will be carried out to determine the most appropriate provision, taking into account site characteristics and constraints. In cases where it is deemed unsuitable to make provision for open space within or adjacent to a development site, suitable off-site open space facilities may be acceptable either as new facilities or improvements to those existing. Where appropriate new green space should secure access to adjacent areas of countryside."

With this in mind, we will outline potential impacts that this scheme could have on the surrounding environment in our response below and highlight the importance of aligning the proposals with the current local policies. We advise that these points should be addressed before the LPA provides feedback to the Applicant or considers this scheme for approval. Our concerns relate to the following:

Impacts Upon Designated Sites and Biodiversity:

The Applicant has noted that, due to the Site's proximity to Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), consultation with Natural England is required to determine if the proposed development is likely to affect this SSSI. The section of Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI closest to the Site is comprises YWT Reserve Carlton Marsh. We note Natural England's response that *"the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on statutorily protected nature conservation sites or landscapes"*.



The Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) confirms that a connection to either of the off-Site watercourses in close proximity to the Site (the northern-most of which is hydrologically connected to YWT Carlton Marsh) is not a viable option for discharging surface-water from the Site and so we also do not expect any adverse effects to YWT Carlton Marsh from the proposals.

The proposed Site is to be located immediately adjacent to two areas of designated Green Space, with Weetshaw Lane Green Space being located adjacent to the Site's northern boundary and Albert Street Allotments being located adjacent to the Site's southern boundary. It is also noted that Clifford Street Allotments will be lost under the footprint of the proposed development. With the southern-most section of Weetshaw Lane Green Space falling under the footprint of Housing Allocation HS36 within the Local Plan, we are pleased to see that this section of Green Space remains outside of the Site boundary and has also been buffered from the development, as per the site specific policy for HS36.

Given the Site's location between the two retained, above-mentioned Green Spaces and the loss of an existing area of designated Green Space, we are concerned that the development has not been designed to fully consider the likely impacts on these two retained designations. Barnsley's Green Space Strategy² lists nature conservation as being of important consideration when assessing the quality of allotments within Barnsley. Allotments support a wide range of species and often include areas left wild or minimally cultivated, creating important microhabitats that help sustain wildlife in otherwise built-up environments. With their diverse mix of flowering plants and minimal pesticide use, allotments provide an important environment for a wide variety of pollinators. The lack of vegetation / buffer planting proposed within the Site boundaries that border the retained Albert Street Allotments is disappointing, as the variety of operational impacts associated with the proposals does not appear to have been adequately considered by the Applicant. YWT request that increased buffer planting and habitat enhancements be considered along the Site boundaries which are situated adjacent to both Three Nooks Lane and Albert Street Allotments.

The Applicant's Green Infrastructure plans also demonstrates that these two retained Green Space parcels will not remain functionally connected under the current proposals. YWT request that the Applicant considers an increase in the provision of connected habitat creation throughout the residential section of the Site, that allows these two Green Spaces to remain connected. This will enable the proposals to support these neighbouring Green Spaces and enhance habitat connectivity within the Site interior, in compliance with Local Plan Policy BI01.

² [Introduction](#)



Several ecological surveys for protected species are recommended within the Applicant's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal & Biodiversity Net Gain (PEA & BNG) Report. These include a breeding bird survey, a preliminary badger survey, and a ground level tree assessment to assess the suitability of the trees on Site to support roosting bats. Once completed and the relevant reports have been submitted, YWT request the opportunity to review the findings of these surveys alongside any updated to the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy:

As a legal requirement, a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric, alongside a robust Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA), should be submitted by the Applicant to demonstrate that on-site habitats are left in a measurably better state (under the Environment Act 2021³ this should be a minimum of 10% net gain) than in their current condition prior to the development.

Based on the current landscaping, the Applicant's BNG calculations show a net loss in the biodiversity value of 16.25 habitat units (-72.69%) and 2.28 hedgerow units (-61.46%). The trading rules are also not satisfied at the time of review. To achieve the +10% net gain and satisfy the trading rules, 18.49 habitat units and 2.66 hedgerow units would be required for this development and as per the BNG Good Practice Principles⁴, we would recommend the Applicant explores ways to limit the extent of the land take from baseline habitats and seek to enhance the condition of on-Site retained habitats, as has been recommended within the PEA & BNG Report.

An updated BNG report should be provided by the Applicant detailing the agreed BNG strategy for this development and which ideally considers an increase in the provision of habitat creation on-Site to both support the neighbouring Green Spaces and enhance habitat connectivity within the Site interior. This should be achieved through the Applicant aligning habitat proposals with the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy and Principles 1 & 2 of BNG good practice. YWT would welcome receipt of this update BIA, to allow for further review.

We would also advise that a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) be produced by the Applicant, to further inform the monitoring and management of these proposed enhancements. The Trust urges the Applicant to further assess the impacts of the loss of the habitats from within the

³ [Environment Act 2021](#)

⁴ [Biodiversity-Net-Gain-Principles.pdf](#)





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application Site and ask that the LPA takes into consideration how the resultant losses in biodiversity may be contrary to the relevant local policies.

We trust that you have found these comments useful and would be happy to be consulted again when these comments are addressed. Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Kind regards,

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**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to
conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places**