

# Ecology Note

Barnsley YMCA, 1 Blucher Street



<b>Site Inspection reference</b>	SI-6782-01A	<b>Date of inspection</b>	07/03/2024
<b>Author</b>	Jon Roberts MSci (Hons)	Biodiversity Technician	
<b>Technical Review</b>	Rob Weston BSc (Hons) MSc	MCIEEM Technical Director	
<b>QA</b>	Charlie Foreman BSc (Hons)	Assistant Ecologist	

**The Site** The Site boundary encompasses the car park of the YMCA building off Blucher Street, and the area of trees and grassland to the south adjacent Lower Castlereagh Street.



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<b>Desk Study</b>	<p>The Site does not form part of any wildlife corridors visible within the local area, which is largely built-up.</p> <p>The Site does not lie within or close to any statutory designated sites. Direct and indirect impacts on such sites as a result of this development are unlikely.</p> <p>An assessment of the Site's potential impacts on locally designated sites has not been conducted.</p> <p>The Site does not lie within the Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area.</p> <p>The Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone for multiple Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), but does not fall into any of the highlighted categories which would require the LPA to consult with Natural England in relation to potential impacts.</p> <p>No ancient woodland is mapped on or within 15m of the Site.</p>
<b>Limitations</b>	<p>The southern section of the Site was entirely fenced off and so could not be directly accessed. Attempts were made to observe and assess the habitats present from the Site boundaries.</p>
<b>Habitat Survey</b>	<p>The car parking area in the north of the Site is mostly tarmacadam, gravel, and laid paving, and is mapped as <i>developed land; sealed surface</i>. It supports very limited amounts of sparse peripheral vegetation, largely weed species such as annual meadow-grass, dandelion, buddleia, and greater willowherb.</p> <p>The grassland area in the south of the Site is mapped as <i>modified grassland</i> and achieves a Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition score of 'poor'. It is generally species-poor, composed largely of perennial rye-grass, with annual meadow-grass, cock's-foot, and creeping bent also present, alongside occasional forbs such as dandelion, daisy, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, perennial sow-thistle, nettle, cleavers, and mouse-ear chickweed.</p> <p>Ten trees are present in the south of the Site, comprising sycamore, cherry, ash, hawthorn, and elder. These are all mapped as <i>urban trees</i>, with the majority estimated to be 'small' and two estimated as 'medium'. It should be noted that these are estimates only, as the trees could not be directly accessed for measuring. They are assigned 'moderate' and 'good' condition scores under the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.</p>

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## Habitats and Ecological Features



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<b>Faunal Appraisal</b>	<p>The Site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds. Vegetation clearance should be conducted outside the active nesting season, which runs 1<sup>st</sup> March–31<sup>st</sup> August inclusive. Vegetation clearance within this timeframe should be preceded by a nesting bird survey conducted by a competent surveyor.</p> <p>The trees on-Site do not contain Potential Roost Features (PRFs) for bats. Buildings B and H bounding the Site were noted to support PRFs suitable for individual and low numbers of crevice-roosting bats, with Building D providing features deemed negligible due to their size, as illustrated in the Ecological Constraints Plan below. Care should be taken to avoid illuminating these buildings during and following works.</p> <p>If the proposed building works will not obstruct potential bat flight lines from Buildings B and H, no further survey will be required. However, if the proposed building works will approach within 1m of these buildings, proportional roost emergence survey will be required.</p> <p>The Site supports suitable habitat for hedgehogs, and measures to allow them to safely access any green space on-Site post-development need to be planned for.</p> <p>While the Site provides some marginally suitable habitat for badgers and reptiles, given its small size and urban location it is unlikely to support either on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Site is assessed as not providing suitable habitat for amphibians, riparian mammals, or white-clawed crayfish.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Net Gain</b>	<p>Given its size and the habitats present, the Site is assessed as being a 'small site'. As the planning application was submitted prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, on which date the requirement to provide a minimum 10% net gain on small sites will become statutorily enforced, the LPA may exempt the development from this requirement.</p> <p>The Site will need to comply with Policy BIO1 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) of the Barnsley Local Plan: development will be expected to maximise biodiversity opportunities in and around new developments, and to encourage provision of biodiversity enhancements, such as hedgehog access and integral roosting and nesting boxes. A Biodiversity Management Plan can be useful in defining these enhancements and may be secured by standard condition.</p>

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## Ecological Constraints Plan



## Photos 1-2

Typical view of developed land and peripheral vegetation.



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<p><b>Photos 3-4</b> Typical views of grassland.</p>		
<p><b>Photos 5-6</b> Typical views of trees.</p>		
<p><b>Photos 7-8</b> Buildings A (left) and B (right).</p>		

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### Photos 9-10

Buildings C (left) and D (right, with east face of Building E visible to left).



### Photos 11-12

Buildings E (left, south face) and F (right).



### Photos 13-14

Buildings G (left) and H (right).



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