



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2026/0428
Proposal	Erection of a single storey portakabin modular building providing nursery facilities.
Address	Brierley Church Of England Primary School, Beech Close, Brierley, Barnsley, S72 9EJ
Date of Consultation Reply	24/06/2026
Consultee	Katie Lawrence, Planning ecologist

Consultation Assessment and Justification

Thank you for consulting me regarding the above application. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment with associated biodiversity metric have been submitted in support of the application. My comments in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

- The PEA sets out the habitats present on site and the potential of the site to support protected species. It also considers designated nature conservation sites within the surrounding area and no impact upon such sites is anticipated, with which I agree.
- The proposal site largely comprises modified grassland, with introduced shrub, trees and a pond. The pond was found to be largely dry at the time of survey and was therefore ruled out to be suitable for breeding amphibians, such as great crested newts. There is no photograph of the pond included within the PEA. Can this please be provided?
- Precautionary works are recommended during proposed construction works to avoid potential impacts upon species and habitats such as the pond on site, reptiles, badger, and hedgehog. Suggested measures are considered appropriate and can be secured by a planning condition.
- Hollyberry cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus* was recorded within the site. This species is listed within Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a non-native invasive species. Whilst it is not a legal requirement to remove this plant from the site, the spread or encroachment of this species must be prevented. Ideally this plant should be removed as part of the proposals. The PEA does not include measures for the removal of the cotoneaster and the report should be amended to include this.
- The PEA does not map introduced shrubs to the east of the site in association with fencing along Beech Close. Proposed hardstanding in association with the proposed portakabin abuts the eastern boundary and therefore may impact this habitat. Consideration should be given to this within the PEA and BNG report (again the area of shrubs is not mapped) including the potential impact to nesting birds and the requirement for precautionary works in relation to such species.
- Recommendations for enhancements are made within the PEA including the incorporation of invertebrate hotels, log piles, hedgehog access gaps within fencing and enhancement of the pond, which is welcomed. These measures can be secured by a planning condition. The PEA recommends the installation of a swift box on the proposed portakabin. This is not considered appropriate, with recommendations for the installation of such boxes advising that these are fitted at least 5m from the ground. The PEA should be amended to revise the recommendation to a standard nestbox as an alternative.

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment & Metric

- The shrubby area that occurs to the eastern boundary of the site has not been mapped and included within the metric. As discussed above, consideration should be given to whether the proposals will impact this area.
- The metric should be amended to remove reference to a ditch within the watercourse baseline tab.
- The proposals intend to retain the existing pond. As is stated within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide, retained habitats can contribute to post-development biodiversity units; however, they may still require ongoing management to maintain their



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baseline condition over the 30-year period. The report notes that the pond was almost dry at the time of survey, indicating that management may already be required to prevent further deterioration, overgrowth, or loss of its function as a pond. Further consideration should also be given to whether the pond is appropriate for retention within a nursery setting, including any potential health and safety implications. If retention is not feasible, it may be more appropriate to record the pond as lost and replace it with modified grassland in good condition. This would affect the metric and will result in the habitat trading rules not being met, which could require the purchase of suitable off-site units. Alternatively, if the pond is retained, it should be subject to appropriate long-term management, with fencing considered where necessary to address health and safety concerns. The PEA recommends enhancement of the pond, so consideration could be given to this if the pond is to be retained.

- As no significant habitats are being proposed a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan is not required; however, if the pond is to be retained and managed, this can be secured by a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan condition.

NO OBJECTION*

**Defer for amends/further
information***

OBJECT*