



PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2025/1092
Proposal	Demolition of existing non-motorised user (NMU) bridge, and construction of replacement NMU bridge
Address	Non-motorised user (NMU) bridge over A633 Grange Lane (A633), Stairfoot, Barnsley
Date of Consultation Reply	23/09/2026
Consultee	Claire Wilson, Planning Ecologist

Consultation Assessment and Justification

An updated metric has been provided and includes the correct site area. The baseline comprises 4.00 habitat and 0.03 hedgerow units. Post development proposals have been provided which comprise a variety of habitats including other neutral grassland, species rich hedgerows, scrub and woodland. As these habitats are considered to be significant their maintenance and management will be secured through a HMMP.

The LPA will also seek a fee for the review of monitoring reports submitted to the council periodically within the 30-year management period. The costs for this site would be £5,000.

It is anticipated that the applicant intends to purchase the shortfall in off-site biodiversity units to meet the developments BNG requirements, these would ideally be purchased within the Barnsley LPA boundary, where possible. Reference can be made to the Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Net Gain Map (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1cc6dce889244e57bd66443af22e4b49>) which maps all habitat bank sites which are included on Natural England's Biodiversity Gain Sites Register.

As noted in my previous response, a minimum 10% gain is required to secure mandatory BNG requirements. Therefore, the additional 10% the scheme is proposing to provide to ensure a minimum 20% gain could be used to enhance the condition of adjacent sites, including Stairfoot Disused Railway LWS.

The PEA recommended eDNA surveys of Ponds 1 and 2 and bat surveys of the bridge, which was initially assessed as having moderate potential to support roosting bats. However, following further assessment, the bridge was downgraded to low suitability and I support this conclusion. An eDNA survey of pond 1 was undertaken on the 20th May 2026, the survey confirmed the likely absence of GCN from the pond.

Bat surveys were undertaken on the 20th May and 24th June 2025. During the surveys, no bats were noted to emerge from any structures and low levels of bat activity were recorded, therefore the impacts to bats from the proposal is anticipated to be minimal.

A Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been prepared to minimise impacts to great crested newts and bats. However, in light of the findings of the PEA, the PWMS should be updated to include appropriate mitigation and precautionary measures for all species with the potential to occur on the site, as discussed within the updated PEA. This can be secured through planning condition.

No objection

*Delete as applicable

Consultation Suggested Conditions:

- The application is subject to the mandatory Biodiversity Gain Condition and the HMMP condition.



- Notwithstanding the submitted details, no development shall take place (including demolition, ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP-B shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities;
 - Identification of 'biodiversity protection zones';
 - An invasive non native species protocol to ensure Cotoneaster is not spread in the wild;
 - Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of precautionary working method statements);
 - The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features (e.g. daylight working hours only starting one hour after sunrise and ceasing one hour before sunset);
 - Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs, including advanced installation and maintenance during the construction period;
 - The times during construction when specialists ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works;
 - Responsible persons and lines of communication;
 - The role and responsibilities on site of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or similarly competent person(s);

Consultation Informative(s):

The works should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive). Should this not be possible then a suitably qualified ecologist should undertake a nesting bird check no more than 48 hours prior to the start of works. Should active nests be found, works should cease until the nests are no longer active and the chicks have fledged and the ecologist has deemed the area to be free of nesting birds.

If a protected species (such as any bat, great crested newt, barn owl or any nesting bird) is discovered using a feature on site that would be affected by the development or related works all activity which might affect the species at the locality should cease. You should then seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and consider the need for a licence from Natural England prior to commencing works. This action is necessary to avoid possible prosecution and ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wild Mammals Act 1996. This advice note should be passed on to any persons or contractors carrying out the development/works.

Great Crested Newts (European Protected Species)

There is a low risk that Great Crested Newt (GCN) may be present at the application site. The Local Planning Authority considers it would be unreasonable to require the applicant to submit a survey because this could be considered disproportionate to the scale and the likely impacts of the development. However, the application site lies within a green and amber impact zone as per the modelled district level licence map, which indicates that there is suitable habitat for GCN within the area surrounding the application site. Therefore, anyone undertaking this development should be aware that GCN and their resting places are protected at all times by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Planning permission for development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation or substitute the need to obtain a protected species licence if an offence is likely. If GCN are discovered during site preparation, enabling or construction phases, then all works must stop until the advice of a professional/suitably qualified ecologist and Natural England is obtained, including the need for a licence. The following recommendations are provided to further reduce the likelihood of impacts on this species:

- Any trenches left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps to prevent GCN from becoming trapped;



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- Any building materials such as bricks, stone etc. should be stored on pallets to discourage GCN from using them as shelter; and
- Any demolition materials should be stored in skips or similar containers rather than in piles on ground.

If a bat or evidence of the presence of bats is discovered on site prior to or during development all work should stop immediately. A licensed bat consultant or Natural England must be contacted and works implemented only in accordance with methods advised by them. This advice note should be provided to any persons/contractors carrying out the development along with the contact details of a relevant ecological consultant. This action is necessary to avoid possible prosecution and ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Planning Obligations required: