



## PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

<b>Application No</b>	2026/2044
<b>Proposal</b>	Demolition of existing building and septic tank and erection of new single storey community and sports pavilion, reconfiguration of parking, new landscaping and other associated works.
<b>Address</b>	Rabbit Ings Country Park, Lund Hill Lane, Royston, Barnsley, S71 4BB
<b>Date of Consultation Reply</b>	07/05/2026
<b>Consultee</b>	Claire Wilson, Planning Ecologist

### Consultation Assessment and Justification

A PEA, BNG assessment metric and condition assessments have been provided to support the application. The PEA concludes that the majority of habitats on site are of low ecological value comprising buildings, hardstanding, planters, introduced shrubs and artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface. There are three small trees and some very small areas of other neutral grassland; a ditch is located approximately 2 m from the northern site boundary.

The habitat baseline comprises 0.23 units and the watercourse baseline comprises 0.58 units. The BNG assessment indicates that a minimum 10% net gain in habitats can be achieved on site. However, watercourse units will have to be purchased from a third party provider to achieve a minimum 10% gain.

There is a condition assessment for the poor condition other neutral grassland but not for the moderate condition other neutral grassland, please can this be provided.

A data search with West Yorkshire Ecology Services has been undertaken, and this does provide some records for the site. However, it appears that a data search with the Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) was not undertaken. I do not consider this omission to be a significant issue in this instance; however, clarification is sought as to the reason for this. This would have also made the ecologists aware that the proposal site is located within Rabbit Ings Local Wildlife Site; this has not been considered within the PEA, and should be.

The building and trees on site were assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats, and I agree with this conclusion.

Ponds are located within 250 m of the site, and there are known records of great crested newt (GCN) in the ponds identified within the PEA, again a search with BBRC would have highlighted this. However, given the limited availability of suitable terrestrial habitat on site, with the exception of a small area of introduced shrubs and areas of other neutral grassland, it is considered unlikely that the species would be present. Notwithstanding this, precautionary working methods should be implemented during site clearance to avoid the injury and/or killing of amphibians. Such measures would also be required to protect small mammals.

The BNG report indicates that the majority of the net gain in habitats on site will be achieved by uplifting the condition of the areas of other neutral grassland from poor to moderate. I do query how this can be achieved within such a small area. However, this can be detailed within a HMMP, which can be secured by condition.

**Defer – further information required**

\*Delete as applicable

**Consultation Suggested Conditions:**



# **BARNSLEY**

**Metropolitan Borough Council**

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**Consultation Informative(s):**

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**Planning Obligations required:**

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