

MEMO

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

To: Matthew Gillyon, Development Management
From: Alicia Morley, Place Policy & Strategy
Your Ref: PA/2025/815
Date: 26 September 2025

**Subject: Planning permission to install a 3m wide tarmac track around the perimeter of the existing sports field to enable the testing of electric cars
Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton Upon Humber, DN18 6AE**

Summary

- A ground level tree assessment has identified negligible potential for roosting bats although there is nesting bird potential. Measures will be used to reduce risk to nesting birds, which are acceptable.
- No further ecological surveys are required.
- Biodiversity enhancements have been suggested.
- The Biodiversity Metric Assessment has been carried out fairly and reveals biodiversity enhancement of >10%, which is acceptable.
- Since the BNG interventions will also be provided off-site, a s106 will be required to secure the uplift for 30 years.
- Planning conditions are proposed to seek a measurable net gain in biodiversity in accordance with Policy CS17, the National Planning Policy Framework and the statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Thank you for consulting Place Policy & Strategy on the above application.

Protected and Priority Species

I have considered this application in accordance with Natural England's standing advice for protected species- <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/spatialplanning/standingadvice/default.aspx>.

The site is currently part of a school playing field, with mature trees around the perimeter and primarily consisting of modified grassland heavily maintained. An ecological walkover has been conducted. There is limited potential for protected and priority species on the site, and the on-site trees have negligible potential for roosting bats, although there is nesting bird potential. A single willow is to be removed, which will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting

season otherwise an ECoW will conduct a site check less than 48 hours before the works. This is acceptable and no further ecological surveys are requested.

Biodiversity Enhancement

The National Planning Policy Framework states that:

“187. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils [...]

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

[...]

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;

[...]

and

“193 d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate..;”

With this proposal, biodiversity enhancement should be secured by:

- Restricted lighting to minimise light spill onto sensitive habitats such as the perimeter trees
- Installing bat boxes in suitable mature trees

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

I have assessed the submitted Statutory Biodiversity Metric and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan. Comments collated through our assessment software are set out in Appendix 2. Main points are as follows:

- The baseline map and condition assessments have been provided and appear accurate.

- Strategic significance has been applied appropriately to baseline and post-development habitats.
- The on-site baseline habitats consist of modified grassland, urban trees and developed land; sealed surface.
- On-site, 0.13ha of urban tree will be lost, some modified grassland will be lost and 0.01ha of modified grassland enhanced to other neutral grassland.
- Habitat creation will comprise of developed land; sealed surface, resulting in post-development provisions of modified grassland, other neutral grassland, urban tree and developed land; sealed surface.
- There will be delayed start of one year before the modified grassland enhancement commences to allow the creation of the racetrack and accommodate the school activities that may impact the area.
- The off-site baseline comprises of allotments (attached to Baysgarth School) and modified grassland (allotment area and Castledyke School).
- 0.033ha of urban tree will be created, 0.15ha of allotments to be retained and modified grassland will be enhanced to other neutral grassland and traditional orchard.
- There will be a delayed start of one year for the off-site interventions.
- The on-site and off-site interventions will result in a combined 0.44BU uplift in area habitat units, equating to 11.82%.

The headline results are as follows:

Combined	On-site pre-intervention (baseline)	Loss of pre-intervention (baseline) habitats	Post-intervention	Net change	
	BU	BU	BU	BU	%
Area habitats	3.69	0.31	4.13	0.44	11.82
Hedgerows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Watercourses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

On-site	Pre-intervention (baseline)		Loss of pre-intervention (baseline) habitats ①	Post-intervention	Net change	
	Size ②	BU	BU	BU	BU	%
Area habitats	1.05 ha	3.69	0.31	3.42	-0.27	-7.31
Hedgerows	0.0 km	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Watercourses	0.0 km	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

Off-site	Pre-intervention (baseline)		Loss of pre-intervention (baseline) habitats ①	Post-intervention	Net change	
	Size ②	BU	BU	BU	BU	%
Area habitats	0.36 ha	1.2	0.0	1.9	0.71	59.06
Hedgerows	0.0 km	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Watercourses	0.0 km	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

The existing trees comprise of nine scattered trees including weeping willow, alder, horse chestnut and oak.

Offsite provisions will need to be legally secured for the 30 years through a s106.

Recommended Conditions

“Prior to development commencing, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The HMMP shall be prepared in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan and shall include;

- (a) a non-technical summary;
- (b) the roles and responsibilities of the people or organisation(s) delivering the HMMP;
- (c) the planned habitat creation and enhancement works to create or improve habitat to achieve the biodiversity net gain in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan;
- (d) the timescales for implementation of the HMMP
- (e) the timescales for completion of the habitat creation and enhancement works
- (f) the management measures to maintain habitat in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan for a period of 30 years from the completion of development; and
- (g) the monitoring methodology and frequency in respect of the created or enhanced habitat to be submitted to the local planning authority.

Development shall then be carried out in strict accordance with the approved Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

Reason: To ensure the development delivers a biodiversity net gain on site in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.”

“Within six months of first occupation of the development hereby permitted a completion report, evidencing the completed habitat creation and enhancement works, shall be submitted to the local planning authority for its written approval. Thereafter, monitoring reports shall be submitted to the local planning authority in accordance with the approved Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

Reason: To ensure the development delivers a biodiversity net gain on site in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.”

“Prior to commencement of development, a Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The BGP shall be in accordance with the Baysgarth School - BNG Design Stage Report, RSK Environment, 06 2025 and accompanying BNG metric prepared by RSK Environment. Development shall then be carried out in strict accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan.

Reason: To ensure the development delivers a biodiversity net gain on site in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.”
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alicia Morley
Ecologist

Annex- Ecology and Legal Protection

Bats

All species of bat are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 making all species of bat European Protected Species. Details of the legislation can be found at:

Wildlife and Countryside Act

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000037_en_7#pt3-pb8-l1g81

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017:

[The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/10490/uksi-2010-0490-en-1)

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/10490/uksi_20100490_en_1](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/10490/uksi-2010-0490-en-1)

Great Crested Newts

The great crested newt is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 making it an European Protected Species. Details of the legislation are the same as those for bats (see above).

Nesting birds

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981(WCA 1981) to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is use or being built. The WCA 1981 also provides that all wild birds and their eggs are protected and cannot be killed or taken except under licence.