

MEMO

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

To: Scott Jackson, Development Management
From: Alicia Morley, Place Policy & Strategy
Your Ref: PA/2025/878
Date: 27 October 2025

Subject: Planning permission to site two porta cabins and a secure vehicle, machinery and materials storage area together with palisade security fencing
Field adjacent waste disposal site, Bigby Road, Barnetby Le Wold, DN38 6EB

Summary

- The preliminary ecological appraisal has been submitted and is appropriate for the site.
- Sensitive working methods for mammals and nesting birds have been provided, although site degradation has already been undertaken which will reduce the nesting bird potential.
- The Biodiversity Metric Assessment has been carried out and reveals biodiversity enhancement of >10%, which is acceptable.
- However, I would dispute the classification of the proposed tree planting as rural trees. The planting would allow insufficient growing space for individual trees, and the positioning would be more appropriate for a hedgerow or line of trees.
- This would need to be resolved to ensure the required >10% BNG is deliverable on-site.

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>.

I have read the submitted preliminary ecological appraisal. The survey methods used and the survey effort deployed are appropriate for the site in question. I have noted that a local records search has not been undertaken through the LERC, however, searches have been conducted on MAGIC. Typically, we do recommend the local records search.

Due to the mammal activity noted on the site (specifically rabbit and small mammal activity), sensitive working methods have been provided, although much of the site has been degraded through the application of a stone surface. Similarly, there is potential for nesting birds in the trees and hedgerows, although as the site degradation has occurred, the planned works are unlikely to significantly impact the remaining potential nesting sites. No further surveying is required.

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..;”

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 has been provided and appears accurate.

- Strategic significance has been applied appropriately to baseline and post-development habitats.
- Baseline habitats comprise of rural trees, other neutral grassland, ruderal/ephemeral, bramble scrub and developed land; sealed surface. Some of the rural trees will be lost, as will the other neutral grassland and the ruderal/ephemeral sections.
- Habitat creation will consist of rural tree, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and other neutral grassland.
- There will be a net gain of 10.32%, equating to +0.25BU, with the provisions delivered on-site.

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	BU	BU	%	
Area habitats	2.4	2.23	2.65	0.25	10.32			
Hedgerows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0			
Watercourses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0			

However, I would challenge the classification of the proposed tree planting (100 trees to be planted along some of the perimeter) – with the planting to consist of one tree every ~3 metres, in a line, I would contend that it may be more appropriate to classify the habitat has a line of trees or native hedgerow. On the BNG Assessment, the post-development map states ‘created scattered trees’, and it is evident that the trees are not scattered (see below).

Sandstrop Quarries Ltd

Quarry Site Adjacent to Household Recycling Centre, DN38 6EB

Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

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Additionally, the length of the planting area is roughly 300 metres, meaning one tree is to be planted every three metres. This is insufficient to support 100 trees.

Recommended Conditions

I can recommend conditions once the revised Biodiversity Net Gain provisions are submitted for assessment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alicia Morley
Ecologist

Annex- Ecology and Legal Protection

Badgers

Badgers and their setts (tunnels and chambers where they live) are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

It is an offence to:

- take, injure or kill a badger - or attempt these actions
- treat a badger cruelly
- interfere with a badger sett
- possess or control a live badger
- mark or ring a badger

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>http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100490_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.

Reptiles

The adder, common lizard, grass snake and slow worm are protected against intentional killing or injuring under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Appendix 2 – BNG Metric Software Comments

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 4

Rural trees to be retained on the site perimeter. Strategic significance as ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Targeted for Moderate condition.

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 3

Bramble scrub to be retained around the perimeter. Condition assessment N/A.

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 2

Other neutral grassland to be lost, in Poor condition.

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 1

Ruderal/ephemeral to be lost, classified as in Poor condition.

A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation, ref 3

Rural trees to be planted around the perimeter of the site. Targeted to achieve Moderate condition which is acceptable. Strategic significance classified as ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Insufficient spacing between trees (1 tree per 3m) and positioning more appropriate for hedgerows or a line of trees.

A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation, ref 2

Other neutral grassland to be created with a target condition of Moderate, which is achievable.

A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation, ref 1

Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface created (site degradation) for much of the site not already developed.

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 6

Developed land; sealed surface to be retained (current recycling facility).

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline, ref 5

Rural trees lost from the site (degradation occurred prior to application), presumed as in Good condition and with a strategic significance of ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
