

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Abi Gazzard
Date:	19/05/2026
Application number:	PL/2026/02397
Proposal:	Construction of a new path, to be used as a temporary vehicle access route during construction for the proposed extension of Malmesbury Church of England Primary School.
Site address:	Land south of Malmesbury Church of England Primary School, Tetbury Hill, SN16 9JR
Case officer:	Julie Mitchell

Recommendations:

☐	No Comment
☐	Support
☐	No objection
☒	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
☐	Objection - further information required
☐	Objection in principle
☐	HRA complete

Thank you for consulting Ecology. I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps, aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and existing records of protected species.

Information considered:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, IES Consulting, February 2026
- Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report, IES Consulting, March 2026
- Statutory Biodiversity Metric, Daisy Bradley-White, April 2026
- Footpath Lighting Layout, Daniel Connal Partnership, March 2026
- External Lighting Strategy Statement, Daniel Connal Partnership, April 2026
- Footpath – Landscape General Arrangement, LUC, March 2026, P04

The site comprises unmanaged tussocky grassland and hedgerow where it is proposed to construct a new path.

COMMENTS:

Protected species and habitats

The site does not appear to be directly within any European designated sites, nor any of their consultation/buffer zones.

The surrounding area is likely suitable for use by foraging and commuting bats, as the site backs onto a grassland field to the south, a line of trees to the north, and fields and residential areas in the wider landscape. The footpath will be illuminated by bollard lights which, although these will cause some light spill onto the bordering hedgerow to the north, will have limited upward light spill and use a warm white colour temperature. These lights should be controlled to remain off, or dimmed, when not needed during core hours. The proposed addition of native hedgerow along

the eastern border is welcomed and will help to compensate any residual impacts of light spill upon the existing northern hedgerow.

No other significant impacts upon protected species are anticipated, and the ecology report sets out appropriate precautionary measures. These should be adhered to and secured via a condition.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) this application is required to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The Biodiversity Gain Plan condition will automatically apply if approval is forthcoming.

A completed statutory metric calculation, condition assessments and maps (*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, IES Consulting, February 2026; Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report, IES Consulting, March 2026; Statutory Biodiversity Metric, Daisy Bradley-White, April 2026*) stating the baseline and predicted post-development biodiversity units of the site have been submitted.

The pre-development (baseline) situation is summarised below, and is accepted as accurate based on the information submitted.

On-site pre-development (baseline) biodiversity value	0.29 Habitat units
	0.25 Hedgerow units
	0.00 Watercourse units
Are there any irreplaceable habitats on-site?	No
Has any habitat degradation of occurred?	No

Confirmation of how the development will achieve BNG is a post-determination matter, however, consideration should be given to how any proposed BNG will be secured. The proposed enhancements and creation of wildflower grassland, hedgerow and individual trees are welcomed. When submitting the gain plan, consideration must be given to the target conditions and impacts of light spill.

CONDITIONS:

1. Compliance with submitted documents

The development will be carried out in strict accordance with the following documents:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, IES Consulting, February 2026
- Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report, IES Consulting, March 2026
- Statutory Biodiversity Metric, Daisy Bradley-White, April 2026
- Footpath Lighting Layout, Daniel Connal Partnership, March 2026
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REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Sign off by WC Ecologist will only be given once ALL outstanding information has been submitted and agreed sufficient.

Ecologist Abi Gazzard	Date 19/05/2026
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