

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jessica Cracknell
Date:	26/05/2026
Application Number:	PL/2026/01895
Proposal:	Relocation of existing timber building to form cricket pavilion
Site Address:	Dauntseys School, High Street, West Lavington, Devizes, SN10 4HE
Case Officer:	Joe Leesam

Recommendations:

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

Thank you for your consultation on the above application. I have reviewed the submitted documents against OS maps, aerial photographs of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory designated sites and existing records of protected species.

The following submitted documentation was reviewed to inform this response:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. 27 February 2026. Herdwick Ecology. Report Ref. 444/R1/2026/V1;
- Small Sites Metric (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric). 27 February 2026. Rev. 1;
- Site Plans. March 2026. Ashley Design. Drawing No. 2879-02;
- Location Plan. March 2026. Ashley Design. Drawing No. 287901;
- Plans and Elevations. March 2026. Ashley Design. Drawing No. 2879-03;
- Design & Access Statement 2879. March 2026.

Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA)

This application lies within the 6.4km zone of influence of the Salisbury Plain SPA and in light of the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the HRA for the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan it is screened into Appropriate Assessment due to the potential impact of recreational pressure on stone curlew in combination with other plans and projects.

However, since this is an application for non-residential works, the above strategy does not apply.

Protected Species

Herdwick Ecology assessed the building as having negligible potential to support roosting bats, due to a lack of suitable features. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal sets out precautionary working methods which is welcomed. The relocation of the existing building will not require removal of any vegetation considered to be functionally valuable to foraging or commuting bats and no new lighting is proposed. Subject to the retention of key boundary features, it is considered likely that the functionality of habitats within the site, and their availability for foraging and commuting bats, will not be adversely affected. Should the proposals change such that trees or existing features with potential roosting features are affected, further survey work would be required, and mitigation measures would need to be reviewed and updated accordingly.

Any new lighting should be for the purposes for safe access and security and be in accordance with the appropriate Environmental Zone standards set out by the Institute of Lighting Engineers in their publication GN01:2021, 'Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light' (ILP, 2021), and Guidance note GN08/23 "Bats and artificial lighting at night", issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals.

The adults, young, eggs and nests of all species of birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding. Please be advised that works should not take place that will harm nesting birds from March to August inclusive. All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 while birds are nesting, building nests and sitting on eggs. The applicant is advised to check any structure or vegetation capable of supporting breeding birds and delay removing or altering such features until after young birds have fledged. Damage to extensive areas that could contain nests/breeding birds should be undertaken outside the breeding season. This season is usually taken to be the period between 1st March and 31st August but some species are known to breed outside these limits.

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 (Small Sites Metric (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric). 27 February 2026. Rev. 1) confirming the baseline and predicted post- development biodiversity units of the site has been submitted (including the baseline habitat maps).

Information in the completed on-site baseline habitat tabs is accepted as accurate based on the information submitted. The pre-development (baseline) situation is summarised below.

On-site pre-development (baseline) biodiversity value	0.0468 Habitat units
	0.00 Hedgerow units
	0.00 Watercourse units
Are there any irreplaceable habitats on-site?	No
Has any habitat degradation of occurred?	No

Note to case officer: The Proposed Site Plan (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. 27 February 2026. Herdwick Ecology. Report Ref. 444/R1/2026/V1) identifies the areas of habitat creation/enhancement which contributes to the applications proposed BNG however detail on the plan is limited. 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.

Core Policy 50

Core Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy requires all development to demonstrate no net loss of biodiversity and to seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. The NPPF also encourages applications to deliver measurable net gains (para 186 d). It is anticipated that all developments will deliver no net loss of biodiversity. For this application, biodiversity measures should focus on delivering continued ecological functionality for birds, bats and hedgehogs.

CONDITIONS:

1. Compliance with submitted documents

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

- Section 6 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. 27 February 2026. Herdwick Ecology. Report Ref. 444/R1/2026/V1;
- Small Sites Metric (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric). 27 February 2026. Rev. 1.

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of biodiversity.

INFORMATIVES:

Protected Species

The applicant should note that under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) it is an offence to disturb or harm any protected species including for example, breeding birds and reptiles. The protection offered to some species such as bats, extends beyond the individual animals to the places they use for shelter or resting. Please note that this consent does not override the statutory protection afforded to any such species. In the event that your proposals could potentially affect a protected species you should seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and consider the need for a licence from Natural England prior to commencing works. Please see Natural England's website for further information on protected species.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jessica Cracknell	26/05/2026