

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jessica Cracknell
Date:	01/06/2026
Application Number:	PL/2026/02001
Proposal:	Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and replace with a new dwelling
Site Address:	15 Callows Cross, Brinkworth, Chippenham, SN15 5DY
Case Officer:	Audrey Lo

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:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report. 27 February 2026. All Ecology Ltd. Project No. 2608. Doc Version. 1.1;
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. 27 February 2026. Iteration. 1.1;
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric -Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology. 20 February 2026;
- UKHab Baseline Habitat Plan. All Ecology Ltd;
- Proposed Block Plan. January 2026. Clark & Maslin. Drawing No. 5845/53. Rev. B;
- Proposed Elevations. October 2025. Clark & Maslin. Drawing No. 5845/51. Rev. F;
- Existing Block Plan. January 2026. Clark & Maslin. Drawing No. 5845/04. Rev. A;
- Existing Floor Plan & Elevations. October 2025. Clark & Maslin. Drawing No. 5845/01. Rev. A;
- Design and Access Statement. 06 March 2026. Clark & Maslin. Ref. 5846/IMM;

The proposed site does not lie within or adjacent to any sites designated for conservation and there are no areas of significant ecological importance within a zone of influence, it is expected that any adverse impacts on protected species or habitats could be suitably mitigated through an appropriate design scheme and timing of works.

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 (27 February 2026. Iteration. 1.1) confirming the baseline and predicted post- development biodiversity units of the site has been submitted (including the condition assessment sheets and 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	0.18 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

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 submitted metric indicates 0.25 biodiversity units or less will be required to meet the 10% BNG requirement and that on-site BNG is not achievable. In these circumstances statutory credits can be bought without providing evidence that insufficient off-site options are available in England. For further information please refer to guidance on Statutory Biodiversity Credits on the GOV.UK website (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-biodiversity-credits>) under 'How to prove statutory credits are needed'.

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.

All details on exact locations and specifications must be added to all working plans (see condition below) and will become an enforceable part of the planning permission to avoid oversight and to ensure consistency and enforceability. Integrated features are generally maintenance-free and seek to benefit a target species/s or group/s and should demonstrate viability in terms of position on the building, location and clustering in accordance with relevant guidance and the additional features.

CONDITIONS:

1. Compliance with submitted documents

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

- Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report. 27 February 2026. All Ecology Ltd. Project No. 2608. Doc Version. 1.1;
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. 27 February 2026. Iteration. 1.1;
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric -Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology. 20 February 2026;
- UKHab Baseline Habitat Plan. All Ecology Ltd.

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

2. Ecological Enhancements

Prior to the commencement of any works, including vegetation removal and demolition, details of the number, design and locations of ecological enhancement features including bat boxes, bird boxes, and hedgehog hibernacula shall be submitted to the Local Authority for approval. The approved details shall be implemented for the lifetime of the development and before completion of the final works.

REASON: To provide mitigation /enhancement for biodiversity.

3. Lighting

All lighting provided on site shall 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.

REASON: In the interests of the amenities of the area and to minimize impacts on biodiversity caused by light spillage to areas above and outside the development site.

INFORMATIVES:

Bat Species

There is a low risk that bats may occur at the development site. Many species of bat depend on buildings for roosting, with each having its own preferred type of roost. Most species roost in crevices such as under ridge tiles, behind roofing felt or in cavity walls and are therefore not often seen in the roof space. Bat roosts are protected all times by the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2017 (as amended) even when bats are temporarily absent because, being creatures of habit, they usually return to the same roost site every year. Planning permission for development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation or substitute for the need to obtain a bat licence if an offence is likely. If bats or evidence of bats is found during the works, the applicant is advised to stop work and follow advice from an independent ecologist or the applicant is advised to follow the advice of a professional ecologist or to contact Natural England's Batline through the internet.

Nesting Birds

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.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jessica Cracknell	01/06/2026