

Consultation Response: Kirklees Council Conservation & Design

Date	29/07/2016
Officer	Tom Stephenson
Purpose	Review of ecological reports submitted in support of application 2016/92041. Reviewed reports include: 1. Bat Survey
Location	Poplar Farm, Bristfield Road, Bristfield, Dewsbury, WF12 0PA

Assessment

The report is succinct yet detailed and provides sufficient information to determine if significant impacts to roosting bats will occur as a result of the proposals. The report also identifies the presence of nesting birds in the Dutch barn.

I agree with the findings of the report, in that no impacts to roosting bats will occur. However, there is the potential for impacts to nesting birds resulting from demolition of the barn. It is not clear from the report which species will be affected. Mitigation should be included for this loss of nesting habitat.

Enhancement in the form of inclusion of bat boxes in the new buildings has been recommended, which I support. Although, due to the level of foraging bat activity recorded, and the connectivity of the site with surrounding land and likely high value bat commuting routes (the site is within the Kirklees Bat Alert GIS layer covering Bristfield Beck), detail of how this connectivity will be protected is required.

Recommendation

Provided that additional detail on mitigation and enhancement can be provided or conditioned I support the application.

In particular, mitigation should be aimed at providing replacement bird nesting habitat and maintaining connectivity for foraging bats throughout the site. Connectivity can be maintained through a combination of landscape planting, such as well positioned hedgerows, and dark corridors where no artificial lighting will fall. These measures could be presented in a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (BSI, 2013).

References

BSI. (2013). *BS42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development*.
London: British Standards Institute.