

Consultation Response: Kirklees Council Conservation & Design (Biodiversity)

<i>Is this a response to an informal consultation request?</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Date	10/03/2017
Officer responding	Tom Stephenson
Application number	2017/90112
Purpose	Initial consultation response
Location	720 Bradford Road, Birkenshaw, BD11 2AE

Assessment and Recommendation

The council has developed a standardised system for determining the need for a bat survey. The process for determining the need for bat survey is as follows; if a property falls within a GIS layer known as the 'Bat Alert Layer' planning officers use details of the proposals to apply a flow diagram, which indicates if further assessment for bats is required. The bat alert layers for West Yorkshire and flow diagram are available on this web page: <http://www.wyjs.org.uk/ecology-service/planning-issues/>

The requirement to consider bats, and biodiversity in general, is a statutory requirement on the LPA and the process outlined above forms part of the means by which we discharge this duty. The intention is that it is an objective and robust approach.

I point to planning officer towards this system and recommend that it is applied in this case. Should it be determined that bat survey is required please request this from the applicant. The following text may be of use.

The council's standardised system for determining the need for a bat survey has been applied to this application, which has indicated that bat survey is needed in this case.

Daytime inspections for bats can be undertaken at any time of year and in many cases are sufficient to determine if bats are likely to be affected. However, if a day time inspection (also known as a **preliminary roost assessment**) indicates that full activity survey (also known as **presence/absence survey**) is needed, then this information will also be required to determine the application. Bat activity survey should include some survey between the start of May and end of August. In any case the survey should meet the minimum standards for bat survey in West Yorkshire (West Yorkshire Ecology Service, 2012).

References

West Yorkshire Ecology Service. (2012, July 18). *Ecology Service: Planning Issues*. Retrieved January 3, 2017, from West Yorkshire Joint Services:
<http://www.wyjs.org.uk/media/1367/150603-minimum-standards-for-bat-surveys-version-5-draft-lp.pdf>