Consultation Response:
Kirklees Council Conservation & Design (Biodiversity)

Is this a response to an informal consultation request? Yes ☐ No ☑	
Date	*11/08/2017*
Officer responding	*Tom Stephenson*
Application number	*2017_90965*
Purpose	*Initial consultation response*
Location	*Bridge Work Wear, 8, Scar Lane, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, HD3 4PE*

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 the 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. In requesting any information that may be required I recommend the following text, and link to relevant guidance aimed at homeowners.

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. 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).

The document in the following link explains what can be expected of a professional bat survey. https://www.cieem.net/news/274/cieem-publish-bat-guidelines-for-homeowners

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