

# Consultation Response (Biodiversity)

Kirklees Council Conservation and Design Team, Biodiversity Officer

| <i>Minor scheme consultation response</i> |                                                    | For office use                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of response</b>                   | 07/01/2019                                         | <i>Is this a response to an informal consultation request?</i><br>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Location</b>                           | 2a, Edgerton Road, Edgerton, Huddersfield, HD1 5QS |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Application number</b>                 | 2018_93862                                         |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Responding officer</b>                 | Tom Stephenson                                     |                                                                                                                                       |

## Assessment

No baseline ecological information has been submitted, therefore it is not possible to assess the proposals against biodiversity planning policy, namely section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework and policy PLP 30.

Information available to me indicates the following known constraints, which must be considered as part of any future application. This is not an exhaustive list and engagement of an ecological consultant will be required to ensure a thorough assessment is undertaken.

- Presence of non-native invasive plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Presence of scrub and trees which have the potential to be important for bat and birds.

## Advice to planning officer

The applicant should engage a suitable qualified ecologist to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in accordance with national guidelines. This work will determine the potential for significant ecological impacts, identify opportunities for ecological enhancement and determine if further survey is required. The results of the PEA, and any additional survey identified as necessary, should be used to prepare an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) (CIEEM, 2018) to support the planning application once any mitigation and enhancement measures have been incorporated into the scheme.

The body of guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) makes it clear that planning applications should only be supported by an EcIA, but identifies situations in which the supporting EcIA can be based solely on information collected as part of a PEA (paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of CIEEM, 2017). A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) is not sufficient to support the application and may result in delays while the additional detail is prepared.

Note that CIEEM guidance makes a distinction between Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, i.e. broadly the process of collecting relevant information and reaching conclusions about design implications, and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Reports, i.e. a report produced to advise the developer/applicant about any further survey requirements and design implications.

## References

CIEEM, 2017. *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. 2nd ed. Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

CIEEM, 2018. *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.