

Consultation Response from Biodiversity Officer
KC Ecology
2019/90634 adj, Netherfield House, 12, Riley Lane, Kirkburton, Huddersfield, HD8 0RY
Erection of detached dwelling with associated landscaping, incorporating existing garage and private driveway
Date Responded:
03/04/2019
Responding Officer:
Tom Stephenson
Responding Ref:

Assessment

The proposals are located within an area identified as higher suitability for foraging bats (Kirklees Bat Alert layer) and the site includes a small area of Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. As mature trees will be lost as a result of the proposals, the potential for impacts to roosting bats will need to be investigated. There are also opportunities to “establish additional ecological links to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network”, see policy LP 30 (iv).

Advice to planning officer

I cannot support the application as additional information which is needed to assess the proposals against biodiversity policy to satisfy the LPA’s duties in respect of protected species.

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 (EclA) (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 EclA, but identifies situations in which the supporting EclA 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.