

Consultation Response from Biodiversity Officer
KC Ecology
2019/91227 Land Adj, 185, 189 &191, Woodhead Road, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, HD9 2NW
Erection of 2 dwellings (within a Conservation Area)
Date Responded:
04/06/2019
Responding Officer:
Tom Stephenson
Responding Ref:

Assessment and Advice

The application is supported by an ecological assessment produced in 2015 that provides an assessment of the previously consented scheme. The report identifies potential impacts to foraging bats through additional artificial lighting, but discounts impacts to roosting bats through the avoidance of potential roost features. The report also identified the presence of Himalayan balsam and discussed measures to avoid significant effects through the spread of this plant.

Despite the age of the survey information, I am satisfied that impacts to roosting bats are avoided, and also satisfied that impacts through the spread of invasive plants can be avoided by adhering to a method statement secured by condition (this would be a pre-commencement condition, which could be avoided by providing this method statement prior to determination).

However, as the proposed dwellings are to be located in a steep sided valley and immediately adjacent to a habitat corridor forming part of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, there is potential for significant ecological harm and impacts to function and connectivity of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network through increased artificial lighting, including from the large areas of glazing on the southern elevation.

For the reasons above I cannot support the proposals. It may be possible to overcome this objection by submitting an updated Ecological Impact Assessment incorporating bat activity surveys and describing mitigation for the impacts outlined above.