

**Consultation Response from Biodiversity Officer
 KC Ecology**
2019/91630 4a, Ruth Street, Newsome, Huddersfield, HD4 6JF
Outline application for erection of 30 dwellings and 12 apartments with ancillary works
**Date Responded:
 31/07/2019**
**Responding Officer:
 Tom Stephenson**
Responding Ref:

Assessment

The proposals are located immediate adjacent to the Kirklees Wildlife habitat Network and the site comprises semi-natural habitats. Therefore there is potential for the proposals to result in significant ecological harm and impacts to the function and connectivity of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. In accordance with NPPF para. 175a, the absence of information that demonstrates no significant ecological harm is sufficient to refuse permission. In the absence of information to demonstrate compliance with biodiversity policies I cannot support the application.

Information on relevant standard for supporting ecological information are summarised below.

Standards for Supporting Information

In the first instance, the applicant should engage a suitable qualified ecologist to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in accordance with national guidelines. This work should identify any important ecological features present (species or habitats), or make recommendations for further survey where this is necessary to determine presence/absence of a feature or to what extent a feature is important. The importance of ecological features should be described on a geographic scale.

The purpose of PEA is to ensure scheme designers have access to sufficient information to apply the ecological mitigation hierarchy. Accurate habitat survey will also be essential if a quantitative method of demonstrating a biodiversity net gain is to be used.

The results of the PEA, and any additional surveys, should be used to inform an ecological report to support the planning application. The most appropriate report format to support a planning application is an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) (CIEEM, 2017b & 2018). However, in instances where it can be determined that the proposals would have no significant ecological effects, no mitigation is required and no further surveys are necessary, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) is likely to provide sufficient information to enable planning officers to assess the proposals against the biodiversity policy (CIEEM, 2017a). In all other cases submission of a PEAR in support of an application is likely to result in delays.

The standardised content and format of an EclA is defined in guidance by CIEEM (2018), and if followed will provide sufficient information to enable planning officers to understand if the proposals are in line with biodiversity policies. In order to provide sufficient information to support a planning application, the EclA should include a characterisation of the impacts to important ecological features, and identify any significant ecological effects resulting from these impacts, which should be described using a geographic scale.

References

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

CIEEM, 2017b. *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.