Consultation Response from KC, Ecology Unit		
2021/90158 PO Box 521, Leeds Road, Huddersfield, HD2 1YU		
Erection of warehouse with external storage yard		
Date Responded: 07/05/2021	**Responding Officer: Amy Reddick**	**Responding Ref:**

Assessment

No ecological information has been provided with the application, therefore assessment of the proposals in relation to Local and National policy cannot be undertaken. The following assessment is therefore made based on the limited information available to me. The site is within close proximity to the River Colne, which is an ecologically sensitive receptor and also forms part of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

Although the Flood Risk Assessment (LBZ-WSP-XX-ZZ-RP-C-001) states that no working within 8m of the banks of the river will be carried out, and the habitats due to be directly affected by the proposals are of low ecological value, there is the potential for indirect impacts on protected species during construction and on the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network post-development.

Therefore, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should be undertaken in order to demonstrate the proposals are in accordance with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP30i to "*not result in significant ecological harm*". It is likely that mitigative measures will be required during construction in order to accord with this policy and these will need to be informed the PEA.

Indirect impacts such as lighting have the potential to negatively impact upon the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. In accordance with LP30iii the proposals will need to demonstrate how they will "*safeguard and enhance"* this network and how the ecological functions will be retained post-development.

Not withstanding the above, the proposals have not demonstrated a biodiversity net gain as required under LP30ii and Section 15 of the NPPF. Given the proximity to the River Colne there in opportunity to provide faunal enhancements on the new building or for native planting along the south boundary to strengthen the existing bankside vegetation.

I need further information to support the application, but see no reason why satisfactory information cannot be provided.

Required actions:

- **Demonstrate the proposals will not result in significant ecological harm with the production of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.**
- **Identify opportunities for biodiversity net gain and demonstrate how this will be achieved post-development.**