Consultation Response from KC, Ecology Unit
2021/93689 Land to the south of, Ravensthorpe Road / Lees Hall Road, Dewsbury
Hybrid application for full planning permission for engineering works, drainage and utilities connection for the provision of site access from Forge Lane and Ravensthorpe Road and associated works; and for outline permission for erection of residential development and mixed use development (including community facilities) with associated works including the provision of internal estate roads and parking, landscape works (including provision of public open space, tree clearance/replacement/woodland management and ecological management) and sustainable urban drainage works drainage principles
Date Responded: Responding Officer: Gareth Hey Responding Ref:

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and Bat Survey Report have been submitted with the application, which is welcomed. This consultation response should be read in conjunction with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust consultee response with comments on both responses addressed accordingly.

A Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has been submitted as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment. The headline results submitted detail that there will be a 11.79% (14.29 habitat units) net gain for habitats and 33.60% (0.46 hedgerow units) net gain for hedgerows brought about by the proposed development. It is therefore considered that the development proposals will realise a net gain in habitats and hedgerows over the existing baseline, ensuring the development can be brought about in line with local policy LP30.

The development proposals will result in the loss of Masjid Abu Bakr Mosque and as detailed within the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust response; it is recommended that additional surveys are undertaken on the mosque to determine if the building is suitable for roosting bats, given the bat survey report details that the site is of local significance to foraging bats, that appeared shortly after sunset, most likely from residential structures close by. It is recommended that the applicant appoints a suitably qualified ecologist to undertake a suite of presence/absence surveys on the mosque. This information is required prior to determination.

Four Badger setts have been identified within the western section of the woodland on site. It is considered that the report does not provide enough evidence as to how Badgers are likely to be impacted by the proposed development. It is recommended that territory analysis and monitoring of the Badger population is undertaken in order to determine how the Badger population is likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

No information regarding wintering bird species has bee provided as part of the EcIA. Given the habitats present on site and connections to other areas of suitable habitats within the area, information relating to wintering bird species should be provided prior to determination.

The government circular on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005) and recent explanatory note from Natural England (Natural England, 2020) indicates that information on protected species, and in particular European protected species, should be made available prior to determination.

The bat survey report details that the site is of local significance for foraging and commuting Common Pipistrelle, with mitigation recommendations regarding the linear features of the site laid out. The report also details a number of enhancement recommendations to ensure that the site brings about enhancements for bat species.

Recommended Actions:

- **Detailed roosting survey report including presence/absence surveys on buildings to be demolished for access.**
- **Badger survey report to be submitted including sett monitoring and territory analysis.**
- **Wintering bird survey information to be submitted to determine the sites suitability for wintering birds and if additional surveys are required.**