

Consultation Response from KC,
Ecology Unit

2023/90444 Land adj, Fern Bank, Far End Lane, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6NS

Erection of detached dwelling

Date Responded: 07/03/2023

Responding Officer: Gareth Hey

Responding Ref:

Assessment

No ecological information has been submitted with the application; therefore, my assessment is based on the limited information available to me. The site is located within the bat alert layer and is located directly adjacent to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. The proposals will need to demonstrate that the functions of the habitat network will be safeguarded throughout the development and that there will be no impact on protected species, in line with policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan and chapter 15 of the NPPF.

Recommended Actions

In the first instance, the applicant should engage a suitably 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 ecological assessment should determine the potential impact on roosting bats, Water Vole and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

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, 2017a & 2018). 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.