

**Consultation Response from KC,
 Ecology Unit**
2020/94405 Archery Field, Slate Pitts Wood, Knowle Lane, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 4HL
Erection of detached building for use as an indoor archery range
**Date Responded:
 22/03/2021**
**Responding Officer: Amy
 Reddick**
Responding Ref:

Assessment

No ecological information has been submitted with the application; therefore, I cannot assess the proposals against local or national policy. The site is included within the bat alert layer and the proposals affect trees outside of the TPO'd woodland but are included within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (KWHN).

The construction of the indoor archery range will result in the removal of a number of trees. These have potential to provide roosting and foraging bat habitat, as no assessment of this potential has been provided it is not possible to assess whether the proposals are in accordance with national or local policy namely Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework, ODRM circular 06/2005 and Local Plan Policy LP 30i.

The removal of these trees is also likely to impact upon the ecological functions and connectivity of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network without suitable mitigative measures. This is not in accordance with LP30iii which, although does not preclude development within the habitat network, requires that development "*safeguard and enhance the function and connectivity of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network*".

In addition to the above, the proposals do not currently demonstrate a biodiversity net gain, resulting in the removal of semi-natural habitat including mature trees within the KWHN. Therefore, the proposals are not in accordance with Local Plan policy LP30ii to "*minimise impact on biodiversity and provide new biodiversity gains through good design*".

Advice to Planning Officer

The applicant should engage with a suitably qualified ecologist to undertake a bat scoping and impact assessment survey of the trees. The applicant should also demonstrate how negative impacts to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network are to be avoided and a how a biodiversity net gain is to be achieved post-development.