

Appellant Response to Bat Objection Received on 03/03/2022

In relation to Lesser Horseshoe bats, one individual call was recorded onsite during the 2018 surveys. This bat was assessed to be commuting through the site only (paragraphs 3.25-3.27 and 4.5 of Appendix 9/4 (Bat Activity Report) of CD1.05). No lesser Horseshoe bats were recorded onsite during the 2020 surveys (CD3.04).

Lesser horseshoe bats roost in buildings and no buildings are to be removed as part of the scheme.

For foraging, lesser horseshoe bats use woodlands and hedgerows and do not typically forage within pasture and cropland as found onsite.

For lighting, operational / working hours are such that lighting will principally not be required. Where it is needed during the winter months only, within the sunken quarry plant site area, all lights would be minimal, downlighting and motion sensed – these details would be subject to a submission under condition 28.

It is also noted that the Wolverhampton Road (A449) which borders the site is also lit in hours of darkness. This is likely to prevent this species of bat from foraging along sections of the site and fragment commuting corridors in the local area.

Proposed progressive tree and hedgerow planting will strengthen the environment for foraging and commuting lesser horseshoes. Ecological protection measures are also included in conditions 57 and 58.