

Ecology response F/23/95405 THE WIDE LANE PAVILION, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
SPORTS GROUND, WIDE LANE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 5PE

Three-year temporary siting of a container hosting a battery energy storage system with associated solar panels and micro wind turbine on roof.

Rachael Morris

17/7/23

There are records of common reptiles, bats, hedgehogs and stag beetles near this site. The Planning Statement by Vail Williams LLP (May 2023) states that the proposal is to put the container on concrete slabs on part of an existing gravel overflow car park. The electrolyte in the battery will be stored in an intermediate bulk container on a bund, so any spills would not escape. The proposal is for only 3 years because this is a research project.

In the proposed roof plan and elevations document by ACG Architects (rev P1, May 2023) the site plan shows trees in the NE corner of the car park, but in the proposed roof plan no trees are shown. There are also hedgerows along the east, north and west site boundaries. Bats use hedgerows as linear features for commuting and foraging. They also forage and can roost in trees if there are suitable features (such as holes, cracks, loose bark or ivy cover available. Nesting birds may also use the hedgerows and trees.

Further ecological information is required on the micro wind turbine and how nesting birds and bats would be protected from disturbance by this turbine in this location.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in line with local and national policy. Surface water drainage information will also be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist