

Ecology response amended 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

14/8/23

I have reviewed the email response from Ben Christian dated 2/8/23 and discussed the proposal with colleagues. I am still concerned about the impact of the wind turbine on bats.

The proposed position of this turbine would be near a hedgerow which is a linear feature bats might use for foraging and commuting. If there is any scope to move the shipping container away from the hedgerow and trees so that the micro turbine is as far from the vegetation as possible. A more central location within the car park would avoid the possibility of the micro turbine affecting bats which might be using the site. They are less likely to be crossing the site and more likely to be following linear features.

A bat box or bird box mounted on a tree within the University of Southampton ownership would be an appropriate enhancement. I am satisfied that the container would not affect the drainage of the car park. The planning statement states that it would be set away from the vegetated boundaries, but it must be far enough away from the root protection zone of the hedgerow so that the soil around the roots is not compacted.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

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