

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

19/9/23

I have reviewed the amended proposed roof plan and elevations (rev P2) The location of the wind turbine further away from the hedgerow is acceptable. I have no further concerns.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

2/8/23

I have reviewed the email response from Ben Christian dated 2/8/23. I am still concerned about the impact of the wind turbine and could only find this article about micro turbines and bats from 2012. It doesn't really provide any data [Small wind turbines have big impact on bats - News - Bat Conservation Trust](#).

The proposed position of this turbine would be near a hedgerow which is a linear feature bats might use for foraging and commuting. It is up to the applicant to show that there will be no impact on bats and birds. The applicant will need to provide some research to show that this sort of turbine would not be harmful to bats. There may be some more current or detailed information available in academic journals.

There may be a bat specialist at the university who could help. Alternatively, a different location away from these features could be proposed.

It might seem unnecessarily onerous to the applicant to assess any impact on bats and birds from this turbine, however it would be more even onerous to find out that it had a negative impact on bats and birds after it was in place and to have to remove it later.

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 so it does not affect the root protection zone of the hedgerow.

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