

Ecology response for F/23/96070 VILLAGE HOTEL EASTLEIGH, BOURNEMOUTH ROAD,
CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3YJ

Erection of an outdoor gymnasium unit with associated lighting columns and fencing

Rachael Morris

26/10/23

I raise an ecological objection to this application due to the location of the proposal within the retained ecology area designated in application F/18/82275 and the lack of appropriate buffers to the adjacent SINC and woodland priority habitat.

Freespace Hicknor Hill SINC is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site and is designated 6A (sites which support one or more notable species) and 6B (sites which regularly support a significant population of a species which has a restricted distribution or has substantially declined in population or range). These species are common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, adder *Vipera berus* and hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*. A minimum of 20 m must be maintained as a SINC buffer, measured from the canopy edge and free of all built structures. Dormice are nocturnal animals and any lighting and noise in this area would disturb this protected species. The woodland area to the south of the site is continuous with the SINC. This is Cox's Rough, lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat, and may also be suitable for dormice. A 20 m buffer from this woodland edge would also be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist