

Ecology response for DC/24/96672 Land of the north side of Grange Road, Netley Abbey, Southampton, SO31 5FE

Discharge of conditions 24 (SAP calculations) and 27 (Lighting) of outline planning permission O/16/78014 for residential development of up to 89no. dwellings with all matters reserved except for access.

Rachael Morris

23/1/24

I have reviewed the lighting design plan by DW Windsor (Rev A, March 2023) and compared the contour lines of the lux levels with the information in the Ecological Assessment report by Ecosupport (May 2016) and the Biodiversity Officer's consultation response (Debbie Salmon, November 2016).

*The biodiversity officer had requested a climbing, endoscope and/or emergence survey of the mature oak on Grange Road if impacted by lighting, a plan of the locations of bat boxes for mitigation and enhancement, the extent and location of at least one dark corridor along the northern boundary adjacent to the SINC to provide prime bat foraging habitat and a lighting plan with the aim of light spill not exceeding 1 lux in foraging corridors used by bat species and along riparian corridors.*

Bat boxes were proposed to be erected on suitable retained trees around the boundary of the development. The locations of the trees with bat boxes must be marked on the lighting plan to ensure that they will not be impacted by proposed light levels.

It is not clear from the lighting diagram which of the trees along Grange Road is the mature oak with the potential bat roost features but parts of the three western-most trees would be within the 3 lux contours. T5, T8 and G29 are all listed as oaks on the Tree Schedule/Tree Protection Plan for this site (O/16/78014, Barrell Tree Consultancy, November 2015). At the northern edge of the site the smallest SuDS feature would be illuminated by one of the bollards shown in purple, which should be avoided.

Information must also be provided about light spill from the houses along the western boundary onto any boundary vegetation.

The trees along the southern boundary with Grange Road will already be illuminated on the south by Grange Road, so having an illumination of 3 lux on the north side will mean that these trees do not have suitable dark areas available for bats or nesting birds.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist