



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 22-12) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: South East Regional Director
Operations Directorate
Southeast Region
National Highways
PlanningSE@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Rachael Morris, Eastleigh Borough Council

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: F/24/96865

Location: The Wide Lane pavilion, University of Southampton sports ground, Wide Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 5PE

Proposal: Erection of floodlighting and associated development

National Highways Ref: NH/24/05274

Referring to the consultation on the planning application referenced above, in the vicinity of the M27 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- ~~a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~b) recommend that condition should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);**
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.¹

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningSE@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature:	Date: 28/02/2024
Name: Mrs Beata Ginn	Position: Area 3 Assistant Spatial Planner National Highways planningSE@nationalhighways.co.uk
National Highways Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ Beata.Ginn@nationalhighways.co.uk	

Annex A **National Highways' assessment of the proposed development**

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such National Highways works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long- term operation and integrity.

National Highways is concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the M27 motorway.

The proposal is for the installation of artificial lighting at the two new artificial grass pitches (AGPs) and low level path lighting along the route to these pitches. We understand that these works are closely associated with the development approved under application F/23/95045. The ducts required for electricity supply to the lighting columns were included in application F/23/95045 and the current application's scope is limited to the lighting columns and fixtures only. The applicant held pre-application discussion with Eastleigh Borough Council, accompanying application F/23/95045, in relation to a split approach to the applications. This was necessary to allow requisite bat surveys to be undertaken between May and October 2023, which in turn informed lighting design. National Highways was not party to the pre-application discussions.

We have reviewed documentation available on your planning portal in relation to this proposal, and whilst the document drawing no: 293368-ARUP-ZZ-DR-L-0102, issue P02, shows location of both, the sports flood lights and path lighting columns, it does not provide any design information. We would like to request this information, so we can assess if the proposed lighting is likely to impact the M27 motorway and its slip roads, noting their elevated position at this location, and provide the authority with the fully informed advice.

Recommendation

National Highways recommends that Local Planning Authority does not grant planning permission for the application (Ref: F/24/96865) until 24 April 2024 to enable further assessment to be undertaken. This does not prevent the authority, if they so wish, to either refuse the application or agree an extension of time beyond 24 April 2024.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 73 and 105 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 104 and 110 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the build clever and build efficiently criteria as set out in clause 6.1.4 of [PAS2080](#) promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.