

Your ref: F/24/96865
Our ref:
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Date: 21 March 2024

Rachael Morris
Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street
Eastleigh
SO50 9YN

Dear Rachael,

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO APPLICATION F/24/96865

The application for floodlighting and path lighting at Wide Lane Sports Ground was submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) on 9 February 2024. Additional supporting information related to the proposed development in terms of lighting analysis is required for the application to be fully assessed. The additional information is summarised below.

Some information was submitted via email on Monday 19 March 2024. This included:

- Lighting Impact Report & Overspill Readings (Halliday Lighting, 11 March 2024)
- Vertical Spill drawings (direct and indirect component)
- Floodlight Specification drawing
- Site location plan (with updated floodlight elevations)

In addition to the above information, the following reports are submitted alongside this letter:

- Bat Activity Survey (John Wenman Ecological Consultancy, March 2024)
- Landscape & Visual Scoping Summary Report (Arup, 21 March 2024)

Lighting

The proposed lighting strategy has been informed by pre-application discussions with Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) and works hard to adhere to their requirements.

The assessment contained within the report by Halliday Lighting is based on the worst-case scenario: lighting levels for regional competitions across both fields of play. In reality, the most common use of the lighting will be for training, which requires a lower level of illumination.



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The results of the worst-case scenario demonstrate that whilst there will be a limited amount of remaining light spill to the trees, this has been significantly mitigated by cowls, zero tilt fittings and column height parameters. There will be 1lux achieved at the trees for heights above 4 metres.

Ecology

The extensive bat surveys undertaken in 2023 highlighted that the treelines on site are a supporting habitat for commuting and foraging pipistrelle bats, and are also very rarely used by light-shy species.

The lighting design has been prepared following consultation with EBC Ecologist and the report by Halliday Lighting demonstrates that most of the guidance provided by EBC is met. Where certain criteria cannot be fully satisfied, efforts have been made for the lighting to deliver outcomes as close as possible to the guidance. Overall, the mitigation implemented will prevent bats deserting roosts and should minimise the deterrence of bat species from using the habitat features on site.

Landscape

The Landscape & Visual Scoping Summary report provides a qualitative review of the possible impacts of proposed floodlighting on landscape character and visual receptors in and around the site.

The scoping methodology involved a desk-based review of legislation, policy, and best practice guidance relevant to the landscape and visual context of the site. The application site is 6-8km away from the South Downs National Park and therefore the associated Dark Skies Technical Advice Note and South Downs Local Plan were carefully considered in this scoping study.

The landscape and visual context were established, and potential landscape and visual receptors identified. A winter day and night-time site visit was also undertaken to establish the baseline landscape character around the site and to understand the visibility, brightness and prominence of existing baseline lighting conditions in the landscape and in views at night. The potential sources of landscape and visual impacts during construction and operation were identified.

The scoping report concludes that no significant landscape or visual impacts on receptors are anticipated from the proposed lighting. Construction impacts on landscape character and visual receptors would be localised and temporary in nature. Operation impacts on landscape character would be localised in the landscape and in keeping with the existing character. Operational impacts on visual receptors during the night would be minimal as there is already substantial lighting in views and the proposed lighting would be largely screened by intervening vegetation. Therefore, no further LVA methodology, mitigation or consultation is proposed.

Kind regards

Ben Pridgeon
Principal Planner