

**F/24/96865 THE WIDE LANE PAVILION, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SPORTS
GROUND, WIDE LANE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 5PE**

Erection of floodlighting and associated development.

Thank you for consulting Ecology, my observations are as follows:

There are no designated sites of Nature Conservation value that will be directly impacted these proposals. There is a line of woody scrub running north/south located at the western edge of the sports ground. This is listed as priority habitat and is associated with a ditch line. Slightly further west again lies the Monks Brook stream corridor with associated vegetation. Given the linear nature of these wooded features and the linkage they provide to Lakeside Country Park to the north it was flagged early in the pre application phase that bat activity survey work should be undertaken.

The bat survey work undertaken by John Wenman identified an assemblage of five species of bat which is fairly typical for this type of urban edge setting with linear landscape features. The key features on site are the wooded edge along the west and north with supporting use of the tree line to the south of the site location. The northern woodland boundary is particularly important for a number of the species but most notably Noctules.

No specific roosts were identified but given the timings of emergence it is likely that noctules and pipistrelles and roosting in the vicinity of the sports pitches.

In the absence of any mitigation the addition of floodlighting could have a negative impact on bats and their use of the site.

A lighting impact report with associated overspill drawings has been produced by Hailiday Lighting. The mitigations aims include:

- Louvres/baffles fitted to reduce spill
- Curfew timers
- Minimise lightspill above column height
- Limit lightspill onto adjacent habitats to 1 lux
- Maintenance factor of 1 for ecological assessment

Section 4 in the lighting strategy sets out the initial recommendations for mitigation that were discussed at the pre-application stage *versus* what it has been possible to achieve. All mitigation factors have been designed in apart from the need to limit light spill to 1lux on all habitats and the luminaire colour temperature.

In terms of the lightspill and and luminaire, efforts have been made to get as close to achieving this as possible without compromising use of the pitch or the bat usage of the site. When combined with other mitigation measures (curfew timers and the fact most floodlighting will be required in winter when bats are hibernating) and the fact there is no lightspill at all to the northern boundary (where the majority of bat activity is) I am satisfied that the proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on bat activity or roosts on and adjacent to the site.

I raise no objection to this application subject to the lighting being installed to the specifications described in the lighting report and the recommendations in both the bat report and lighting report being secured as a condition of any permission.

Paul Howe MCIEEM

Ecologist

Date 8/4/24