

RESPONSE TO LANDSCAPE OFFICER COMMENTS

Thank you for the detailed landscape comments on the proposed floodlighting at Wide Lane Sports Ground (dated 28 March 2024). The information below responds to the queries raised. A significant amount of option testing and modelling informed the proposed design, so we hope that this information clarifies the justification for the design.

Floodlight Height

The existing temporary, diesel-powered floodlights used at the site have a maximum height of 9.14m and are of a similar style to the unit in the image below. Given the low height of these floodlights, they have a high tilt angle to ensure the light reaches across the pitches. As a by-product of this tilt angle, floodlights of this type produce a substantial amount of direct upward light pollution.

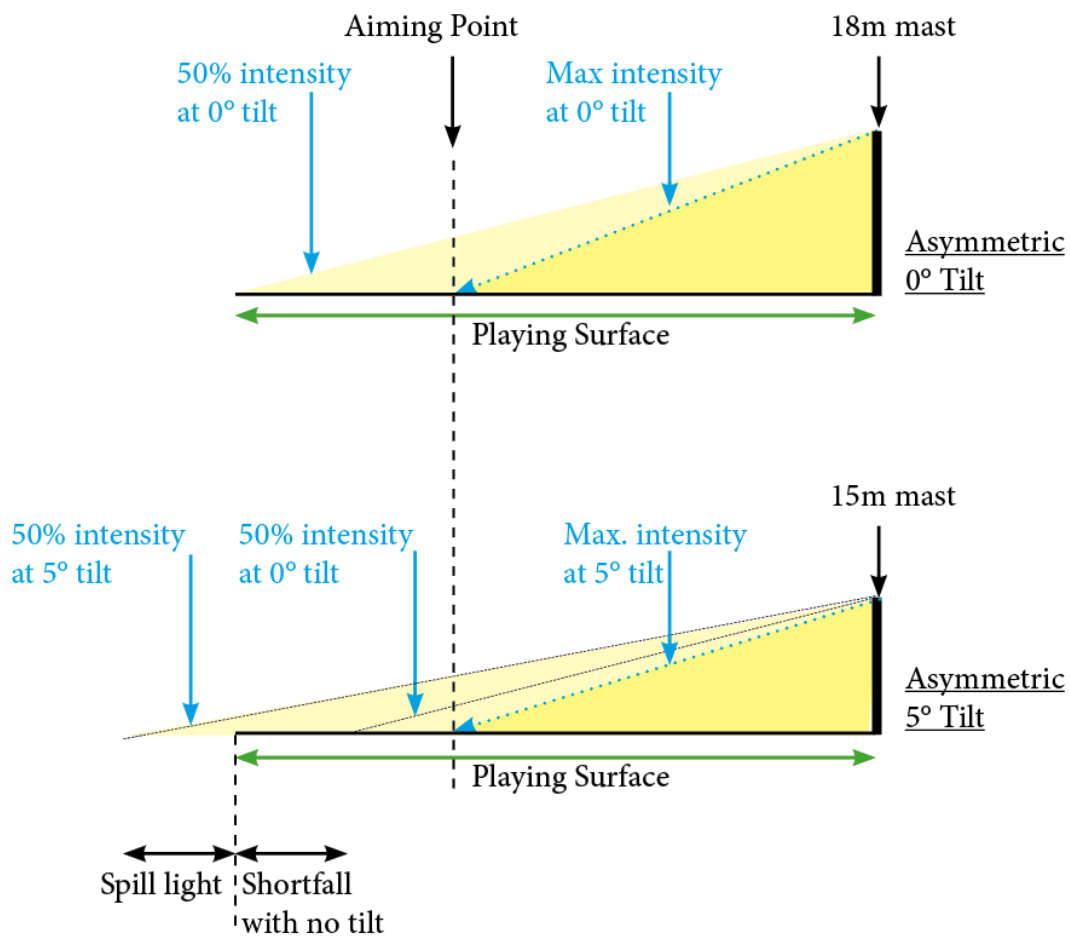


The existing permanent floodlighting columns at Wide Lane sports ground (pitches to the south of the site) are 15m in height. The floodlights at Stoneham FC are believed to be 14m, based on their planning permission granted in 2016.

The key design driver for the proposed permanent floodlights is to reduce unnecessary light spill and have zero direct upward light. This will reduce the ecological impact and night-time visibility of the lighting. A range of mounting heights, including lower levels, were tested during the design of the proposed floodlighting. The proposed 18m height was determined to minimise both light spill and visual impact.

The proposed lighting is in an ecologically sensitive location, with the presence of light-sensitive bat species detected in the surrounding trees. Specific parameters on light spill were therefore provided by the EBC Ecologist at the pre-application stage, including lux limits at the surrounding treelines. It is only possible to meet the ecological requirements, whilst lighting the pitches to the Sport England performance requirements, by making the columns 18m in height. This is due to the tilt that is introduced with shorter mast heights.

As shown in the image below, to achieve the equivalent lighting intensity across the pitch surface using 15m mast, the lighting units must be tilted. This generates light spill beyond the pitch and increased amounts of direct upward light.



In the specific context of the application site, any unnecessary light spill would cause lighting of the surrounding trees and would be unacceptable from an ecological point of view. The 18m masts allow for zero tilt on the lighting units, minimising light spill. This reduction of light spill will also benefit the night-time views.

The proposed design therefore reduces the visual impact on the nocturnal landscape as well as being the most sensitive solution from an ecological perspective, when compared to lower mounting heights.

Landscape & Visual Assessment

The Landscape and Visual Scoping produced by Arup provides a summary of their assessment. As requested, please find the numbered viewpoint images referred to in the report at Appendix 1. This includes both the daytime and nighttime photographs.

Longer distance views were considered by Arup in the preparation of their assessment, however these views were discounted after the desktop study analysis as it wasn't considered that there would be any perceivable impact generated by the proposed development.

Path Lighting

The suggested use of bollards to provide low-level lighting on the pedestrian path was considered prior to the planning submission, however this option was discounted due to safety and design considerations. The pedestrian pathway is not an even, level surface, so the limited lighting provided by bollards was considered to generate a health and safety risk for users. A significant number of bollards would be required to light the path to an adequate standard which would be inefficient and clutter the pathway.

The proposed 4m lighting columns will provide more even illumination across the path and are therefore preferred by the University. These columns also match existing lighting at Wide Lane, such as in the car park.

APPENDIX 1

VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Viewpoint 1: Day



Viewpoint 1: Night



Viewpoint 2: Day



Viewpoint 2: Night



Viewpoint 3: Night



Viewpoint 4: Day



Viewpoint 4: Night



Viewpoint 5: Day



Viewpoint 5: Night