

Ecology response for F/25/100191 EASTLEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB, TEN ACRES, STONEHAM LANE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9HT

Construction of seven covered Padel tennis courts, each measuring 20m x 10m which are enclosed by metal posts in-filled with clear toughened glazing and metal open mesh panels.

Each court will have a synthetic turf surface and will be illuminated by 8 downward-facing LED floodlights, integrated directly into the court structure.

The proposed Padel courts will be surrounded by a 4m high fence and gates.

Gregg Chapman

3/2/26

No objection subject to conditions

There are records of bats and dormice very close to this site with otters along the Monks Brook. The site is mostly in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts, but a small part of the northwestern corner is in an amber risk zone.

The Arborical Survey report by Arbtech (December 2025) states that the site is currently an area of hardstanding parking and is generally level. There are trees, a hedge (primarily hawthorn) and bramble off site along the eastern site boundary with some of the canopies extending over the red line boundary into the site.

The trees would provide habitat for nesting birds and bats. The hedge may also provide habitat for nesting and commuting dormice.

A **precautionary working method** is required to prevent harm to wildlife that could be moving through this site. It should include:

All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.

Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp

No fires can be lit on site.

Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Any chemicals and fuels must be stored carefully and away from potential wildlife habitat.

Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

Section 3.11 in the planning statement states that *Eastleigh Football club have floodlights to the adjacent artificial football pitches that are permanently on until 10pm most evenings of the week. The surrounding main roads and also lit at night by car headlights, street lights etc.*

The lighting on the eastern side of the site must be shielded so that it does not illuminate the trees.

Noise was assessed with regard to the neighbouring residential properties, but not to adjacent potential wildlife habitat. It is possible that there would be additional noise impact on the vegetated areas along the Monks Brook located across Stoneham Lane, however the noise from existing road traffic and football matches is likely to be greater than the noise from the use of the padel courts.

Biodiversity net gain

The application form claims the de minimis exemption from providing 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) due to the existing surface being hardstanding. The site size is given as 2321 square metres. The aerial photo available on Google maps confirms that this is a paved area currently used for parking.

Although 10% BNG is not required, **some biodiversity enhancements will be required** in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. Enhancements can be approved before determination or can be conditioned.

CEMP

A CEMP is required to ensure that sediment and any other pollutants from construction are not allowed to wash into the roadway where they could pollute the Monks Brook, a tributary of the protected waters of the River Itchen.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist