Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	16/11/2023
Application number:	PL/2023/06051
Proposal:	Erection of steel barn on permeable hardstanding
Site address:	Land East of Thickthorn Farm, Preston, Wilts, SN15 4DY
Case officer:	Samantha Stockley

Recommendations:

	No Comment
	Support
	No objection
x	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
	Objection - further information required
	Objection in principle
	HRA completed

Matters Considered:

Thank you for consulting Ecology, I have reviewed the application and supporting documents against OS Maps and aerial photography of the site and surrounding area, together with GIS layers of statutory and non-statutory sites and existing records of protected species.

Core Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy requires all development to demonstrate no net loss of biodiversity and encourages developments to seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Enhancement proposals have been outlined within the design and Access Statement (July 23 Equestrian Blueprint) to include nest boxes for bats and birds. The inclusion of these features would be in accordance with Core Policy 50.

CONDITIONS:

1. Biodiversity enhancements, to include bat and bird boxes will be provided as outlined within the following document:
   - Design and Access Statement. July 2023. Equestrian Blueprint.

   REASON: To provide mitigation /enhancement for biodiversity.

2. No new external artificial lighting shall be installed at the site unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

   REASON: In the interests of conserving biodiversity.

INFORMATIVES:

Nesting Birds

All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 while birds are nesting, building nests and sitting on eggs. The applicant is advised to check any structure or vegetation capable of supporting breeding birds and delay removing or altering such features until after young birds have fledged. Damage to extensive areas that could contain nests/breeding birds should be undertaken outside the breeding season. This season is usually taken to be the period between 1st March and 31st August but some species are known to breed outside these limits.

Artificial Lighting

The habitat within the proposed development site and the surrounding area is suitable for roosting, foraging and commuting bats. An increase in artificial lux levels can deter bats which could result in roost abandonment and/or the severance of key foraging areas. This will likely result in a significant negative impact upon the health of bat populations across the region. Artificial light at night can have a substantial adverse effect on biodiversity. Any new lighting should be for the purposes for safe access and security and be in accordance with the appropriate Environmental Zone standards set out by the Institute of Lighting Engineers in their publication GN01:2021, 'Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light' (ILP, 2021), and Guidance note GN08-18 "Bats and artificial lighting in the UK", issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jenna Buss	16/11/23