Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Rachel Whyte
Date:	07/12/2023 08/12/2023
Application number:	PL/2023/08943
Proposal:	Re-surfacing of existing visitor car park and associated infrastructure to improve drainage and performance
Site address:	Car Park at Beckhampton Road, Avebury, Wilts
Case officer:	David Millinship

Recommendations:

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

Further Information Required:

	Issue	Policy/Legislative Compliance	Date Information Requested & Further Information Required	Satisfactorily Addressed (Document & Date)
1.	Trees / hedgerows	CP 50	**07/12/2023** - Proposals to demonstrate no loss of integrity of boundary vegetation.	**YES – 08/12/2023** - Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan. 28th November 2023. Bosky Trees.

The outstanding document(s) listed above are needed to enable the council's ecology team to consider all the relevant impacts and benefits of the proposed scheme. The council's ecologists will provide a further response once all the above information has been submitted via the case officer.
Please Note: When resubmitting a revised document, ALL changes must be highlighted to enable review.

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.

Ecological survey of the site was carried out by Greena Ecological Consultancy at a suitable time of year and following industry guidelines. No vegetation is proposed for removal and the works are restricted to areas of existing bare ground. Tree T31 has potential for roosting bats and recommendations have been provided in the Arboricultural Method Statement to ensure this tree is protected during the works. Boundary vegetation also provide opportunities for nesting birds.

The surrounding habitat offers high quality roosting and foraging opportunities for 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 GN08/23 "Bats and artificial lighting at night", issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals.

Further Information Required:

1. Precautionary working methods have been provided for T31 but not the rest of the western boundary vegetation. The proposals must demonstrate that the integrity of all boundary vegetation will be retained.

   Please note: when resubmitting a revised document, ALL changes must be highlighted to enable review.

In carrying out its statutory function, the LPA must be reasonably sure that the proposal will not result in significant adverse effects on protected habitats or species. The information outlined above must therefore be submitted and reviewed by the LPA's ecology team prior to determination of the application.

CONDITIONS:

1. The development will be carried out in strict accordance with the following documents:
   - Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan. 28th November 2023. Bosky Trees.
   - Arboricultural Method Statement. 28th November 2023. Bosky Trees.

   REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of 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.

Protected Species General

The applicant should note that under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) it is an offence to disturb or harm

any protected species including for example, breeding birds and reptiles. The protection offered to some species such as bats, extends beyond the individual animals to the places they use for shelter or resting. Please note that this consent does not override the statutory protection afforded to any such species. In the event that your proposals could potentially affect a protected species you should seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and consider the need for a licence from Natural England prior to commencing works. Please see Natural England's website for further information on protected species.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist **Rachel Whyte**	Date **08/12/2023**