Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	08/05/2024
Application number:	PL/2023/00325
Proposal:	Creation of 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, storage container and new hardstanding areas
Site address:	Stanley Park Playing Field, Stanley Lane, Stanley, Wiltshire, SN15 3RW
Case officer:	James Repper

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	Lighting	Habitat Regs CP50 NPPF	Amended Lighting Scheme	**YES 08/05/2024** **Flood Lighting Performance Report. February 2024. Christy Lighting Masts Ltd** **Revised Flood Lighting Scheme. April 2024. McARDLE**

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 additional 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.

The following submitted documentation was reviewed to inform this response:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. October 2023. Coyne Environmental;
- Flood Lighting Performance Report. February 2024. Christy Lighting Masts Ltd
- Revised Flood Lighting Scheme. April 2024. McARDLE

Protected Species

We note the proposal to create an artificial grass pitch at Stanley Park sports ground. The ecology report found no evidence of protected species on site and the habitat lost will be existing amenity grassland. Although no evidence of badger or great crested newt were noted on site, records exist within close proximity. However, it is considered unlikely that these species will be impacted by the proposal due to the retained extent of suitable habitat and current use of the site.

Lighting

We welcome the additional information submitted in support of the application to include the revised Flood Lighting Scheme which demonstrates that the hedgerow corridor will remain unlit and therefore that the foraging and commuting routes for wildlife will remain dark.

CONDITIONS:

1. The development will be carried out in strict accordance with the following documents:
   - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. October 2023. Coyne Environmental;
   - Revised Flood Lighting Scheme. April 2024. McARDLE

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

INFORMATIVES:

There is a residual risk that great crested newts / reptiles could occur on the application site. These species are legally protected and planning permission does not provide a defence against prosecution. In order to minimise the risk of these species occurring on the site, the developer is advised to clear vegetation during the winter, remove all waste arising from such clearance and maintain vegetation as short as possible. If these species are found during the works, the applicant is advised to stop work and follow advice from an independent ecologist or the Council Landscape and Design Team (ecologyconsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk)

The adults, young, eggs and nests of all species of birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding.
Please be advised that works should not take place that will harm nesting birds from March to August inclusive. 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.

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 GN08/23 "Bats and artificial lighting at night", issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist	Date
Jenna Buss	08/05/2024