Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response

ECOLOGY

Officer name:	Jenna Buss
Date:	01/07/2024
Application number:	PL/2023/09184
Proposal:	6 No. Training Flood Lights
Site address:	Sutton Benger Recreation Ground, Sutton Benger, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 4RP
Case officer:	Cheryl Stansbury

Recommendations:

	No Comment
	Support
	No objection
	Condition (no objection subject to conditions)
x	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	Lighting Scheme	

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.

The following submitted documentation was reviewed to inform this response:

- Design and Access Statement. August 2023. A1 Planning Services.
- Site Location Plan

Protected Habitats/Species

We note the proposlas to erect flood lighting on the recreational ground at Sutton Benger Playing Fields to be used throughout the year and up to 11pm. No ecological information has been submitted in support of this application to date. However, the edge habitat within the proposed development site and the surrounding area is suitable for roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

The location of the lighting in close proximity to existing trees/hedgerows in combination with the length of time the lighting is proposed to be used could therefore impact significantly upon ecology at the site.

An increase in artificial lux levels can deter bats which could result in roost abandonment and/or the severance of key foraging areas. This could 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.

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. It is therefore advised that a lighting scheme is submitted to ensure that the existing trees and hedge line are not impacted by the proposals.

The hedgerow and tree lines should remain as a dark foraging and commuting routes. The lighting scheme will include a lux plan overlain over the existing site layout and include light spill behind the lighting columns, demonstrating that all boundaries remain unlit with a maximum of 0.5 lux. This should be achievable through careful location of lighting, baffles and angling lighting downwards.

Final sign off – all matters addressed:

Ecologist Jenna Buss	Date