

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/23/00415

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/23/00415

Address: Seacourt 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ

Proposal: Installation of fencing and lights to form two Padel Tennis courts.

Case Officer: Joseph Toole

Consultee Details

Name: Consultee Principal Ecologist

Address: Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Ecologist, Planning Policy Team

Comments

Dear Joseph,

APP/23/00415 | Installation of fencing and lights to form two Padel Tennis courts. | Seacourt 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information. I have therefore carried out my own non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and GIS mapping. Whilst I would not expect this site to be of significant ecological value it comprises an existing hard surface set within what appears to be managed grassland, with planted trees/shrubs at the boundaries it is not currently possible for me to provide a definitive view on ecological value. You kindly provided some recent good quality photographs of the site, showing that the habitats present comprise managed grassland with planted ornamental vegetation, some scrubby/herbaceous vegetation and several small trees. I am content that the site is not likely to be of significant ecological value in terms of semi-natural habitats, but it may be suitable for small numbers of nesting garden birds and potentially common reptile species.

The site certainly appears potentially suitable for foraging/commuting bat species, based on the presence of structured vegetation at the sites boundaries and within the wider area (gardens, street trees, extensive unlit habitat to the south etc.) and the presence of recent records of bat species locally. The submitted Lighting Technical Report Appendix 1 (DFL, August 2023) demonstrates that there will be significant spillage (up to 10 lux) over a wide area surrounding the site, encompassing adjacent vegetation with potential to be used by bat species. On that basis, I consider that further consideration of this matter is required. I would recommend that the applicant provides a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) considering identified impacts to protected

species, to be provided by a qualified ecologist. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (www.cieem.net) holds a database of suitably qualified ecologists. A preliminary ecological appraisal will determine whether there is any evidence of protected species, and whether the proposed works are likely to result in impacts to those species. Unless the qualified ecologist can conclude that there is no reasonable likelihood of protected species being present (due to negligible potential) or that if present they are not to be impacted by the works, it is likely that further ecological survey work (Phase 2 survey) will be required prior to determination of the application. The results of any further surveys should be used to provide an assessment of the likely ecological impacts of the proposed works and to inform any mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.

NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the Local Planning Authority prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected sites, habitats and species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the Local Planning Authority to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the potential ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Principal Ecologist | E: tristan.norton@havant.gov.uk

Planning Services, Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Havant, PO9 2AX