

APP/20/00285 | Land raising of the recreation ground at Hobby Close Field using inert clean soil material to solve inherent drainage problems in ground and provision of sports field. Temporary construction routes from Eagle Avenue to the east and north of the site. These works would also allow for new play area and skate park to replace the existing ones on site (the play area and skate park works do not require planning permission). | Recreation Ground, Hobby Close, Wecock, Waterlooville 20.0795

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Thank you for your patience during the long delay in responding.

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (EcoSupport, June 2020). The site comprises primarily areas of amenity grassland and hardstanding of limited ecological value. The proposed temporary access route will pass through an area of woodland to the north, requiring the removal of some trees and understorey scrub.

In terms of ecological impacts, these are chiefly limited to the access route through the woodland. A single immature oak tree has been subject to detailed inspection and there is a limited residual potential for roosting bats. Supervised felling will occur and this is acceptable. Measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate potential ecological impacts, including the timing and/or supervised removal of vegetation, the supervised strimming of potential reptile habitat and the covering of excavations. Given the relatively limited potential for impacts these measures are acceptable.

If you are minded to grant permission I would be happy to suggest that ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are secured by condition.

Development shall proceed in accordance with the ecological mitigation measures detailed within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (EcoSupport, June 2020) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: to protect biodiversity in accordance with the Conservation Regulations 2017, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the NERC Act (2006), NPPF and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**