

APP/19/00626 | Creation of shared use footpath/cycle track linking Washington Road and New Brighton Road, Emsworth. | Land North of Railway Line, between Washington Road and New Brighton Road, Emsworth 19.1348

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The application is accompanied by an Ecological Appraisal (Hampshire County Council Ecology, September 2016). The site comprises a cleared strip of ruderal vegetation and low scrub, adjacent to similar habitat with young plantation woodland. I am content that the site is likely to be of limited ecological value overall. The site has been shown to support common reptile species and will undoubtedly support various breeding bird species as well as foraging/commuting bats. The ecological appraisal provides some useful recommendations for avoiding ecological impacts and for compensatory habitat.

I note the current discussion in respect to lighting. An unlit route would be preferable from a purely ecological perspective, but I appreciate that there are other requirements. If lighting is to be installed, then it should be of a design that minimises spillage onto adjacent vegetation whilst meeting safety requirements. Recent [guidance](#) by the Institute for Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust should be used to guide lighting design. The use of LED lighting is likely to be least disturbing to nocturnal animals: this need not be low-level bollard lighting.

Although the vegetation has been maintained short, there is potential for future site clearance works and construction activities to result in impacts to protected species both within the works footprint and in adjacent land. The careful timing of works, as well as the use of an Ecological Clerk of Works/supervising ecologist, will assist in avoiding most impacts. Given the loss of confirmed reptile habitat there is a requirement to undertake some habitat management works (such as those recommended in the Ecological Appraisal) to compensate for this loss.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that an Ecological Mitigation Strategy is secured by condition.

Prior to the commencement of development, an Ecological Mitigation Strategy shall be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority. The Strategy shall be in accordance with the ecological avoidance and mitigation measures detailed within the Ecological Appraisal (Hampshire County Council Ecology, September 2016) unless agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Strategy should include: details of works methods and timings to avoid impacts to protected species; details of compensatory habitat for protected species; and details of how lighting will minimise potential impacts to protected species. Any such measures shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed details and secured in perpetuity, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: to provide ecological protection and enhancement in accordance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, NPPF, NERC Act 2006 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**