

APP/17/01327 | Redevelopment of grass rugby pitch to provide World Rugby Compliant Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch, with associated hard and soft landscaping, bunding , fencing, ancillary storage container and dugouts and new floodlighting. | Hooks Lane Ground Clubhouse, Fraser Road, Havant, PO9 3EJ 18.0160

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

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and a Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (Middlemarch, November 2017). The site comprises an area of amenity grassland, hardstanding, a clubhouse and planted coniferous hedging. The site is of very limited ecological value overall but the proposal would directly impact the little ecological value it does have.

The removal of the tall coniferous hedging surrounding the existing pitch would result in a net loss of bird nesting habitat and also in the loss of a useful green corridor within the local landscape. The hedge is in close proximity to existing floodlights, although not along its western edge, and is likely to offer limited foraging/commuting habitat for bats when the floodlights are active (but may well be used once these are switched off).

The ecology report identified a single large oak tree in the west of the site which is considered to offer potential for supporting roosting bats.

Overall, it is apparent that the ecological assessment has been considered after the design for the site was finalised and therefore has had no influence on the design. I would support the ecologist's recommendation that the lighting strategy is subject to review by an ecologist.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist