

ecological support, management &
solutions



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3rd January 2017

RE: Blendworth Crescent Lighting

Dear Adrian,

Following on from the comments raised by Tristan Norton at Hampshire County Council ecosupport Ltd. have been in contact with Nick Cadman, a lighting design engineer at TamLite Lighting. He has provided us with additional information to enable us to make comment as to the impacts towards both foraging and commuting bats utilising the Blendworth Crescent site.

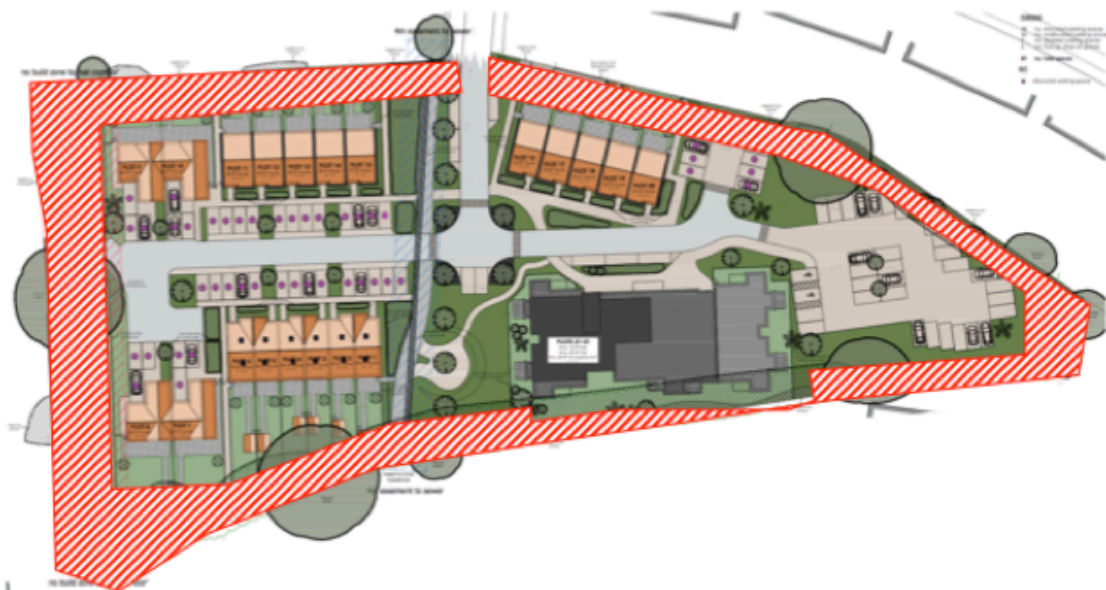
Although there will be an increase in light levels (between 1 – 5 lux) within the center of the site, along the new access road, the light levels fall below 1 lux by the time they reach the front elevation of the new builds. This means that within the western section of the site a dark corridor will be maintained along the northern, southern and western boundary (**Figure 1**). This is above the recommendation within the Mitigation Strategy (**Figure 2**). It is considered that the bats utilising the maternity Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*) roost will therefore be able to continue using the site as recorded during the Phase II surveys.

Figure 1. Hatched area <1 Lux maintaining dark corridor for bats.



This buffer continues into the eastern section of the site. However here, due to car parking and light levels required for safety reasons, lux levels up to 5 lux will reach the site boundary. This does deviate from the recommended dark corridor outlined within the Mitigation Strategy (please see **Figure 2** below) however as stated within the Mitigation report activity was concentrated within the southeastern corner. As **Figure 1** shows, this extent of the site will remain a dark area. In addition it should be highlighted that the species recorded within this extent of the site were Common and Soprano Pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *pygmaeus*). Pipistrelles are known to be more tolerant to artificial lighting, even utilising such opportunities to increase feeding.

Figure 2. Recommended dark corridor for bats within Mitigation Strategy.



Although the lighting strategy will result in a short stretch of lit boundary vegetation, bats will have the opportunity to utilise the neighbouring gardens, which will remain unchanged. Therefore it is considered unlikely this will result in a severance of commuting routes.

Finally Tamlite Lighting have confirmed that there will be 0% upward light ratio (ULR). Therefore the Serotine bats utilising the site, that fly at a height of around 10m, are unlikely to be impacted.

Particular emphasis has been put on assessing the lighting strategy for Serotine bats due to the close proximity of a high conservation value maternity roost. With regard to this roost, all comments and recommendations have been taken on board and incorporated within the lighting strategy. Unfortunately it has not been possible to maintain the dark corridor throughout the site however it is preferable that such occurrence have taken place as far from the Serotine roost as possible. As mentioned, as there are opportunities for commuting bats directly adjacent it is considered unlikely bats will be significantly impacted.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have further questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristanna'.

Tristanna Cornwell
Licensed Ecologist