

# HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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Ms R Collard  
Planning Case Officer  
Welwyn Hatfield Council  
The Campus  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6A

Ask for: Anita Parry  
Tel: 01992 556149  
Date: 29/02/2016

Dear Ms R Collard,

**Application Reference: 6/2015/2524/FULL**  
**Proposed development at: Stanborough School Lemsford Lane Welwyn Garden City AL8 6YR**  
**Proposal: Extension of existing netball court and installation of 16no floodlighting columns**

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on this application.

We do not have any biological (species or habitat) data for the application site itself or within the wider school grounds. The south-east edge of the existing netball court is within 10m of a hedgerow and the south-western side is within 20m-40m of a hedgerow. The north-west and north-east sides are adjacent to less interesting grassy playing fields and a school building respectively.

To the west of the school is part of the Stanborough Lakes complex which, in addition to the two large lakes, has extensive areas of grassland with scattered and clustered trees and blocks of woodland. All these habitats will provide suitable foraging, commuting and roosting/nesting opportunities for bats and birds, and we have records of both these species groups in the area.

The application site is already used as netball court and school playing field. I have no objection to the extension of the existing netball court.

Floodlighting is proposed, and although some lighting information has been provided, I am unclear of some of the details for this application e.g. bulb type, hours of use.

The application needs to take glare and the local ecology into account by reducing light spill and not directing light at the adjacent habitats. The 10m high columns are acceptable in this respect. Baffled light units should be directed downwards to

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minimise light spill, in particular directing light away from the nearby hedgerows, to ensure dark corridors remain for use by wildlife as well as directing lighting away from potential roost / nesting sites.

I would favour the use of LED bulbs, or low pressure / high pressure sodium lamps (rather than metal halide or mercury lamps which are not regarded as 'bat friendly') - *although this should not be regarded as a reason for refusal*. Lamps with a warm-white light and low UV are better for wildlife than blue-white light with high UV, as they attract fewer moths and other insects on which bats feed.

I would like to see restricted floodlight operating hours at the school to 21.00 hours Monday to Friday and 18.00 hours Saturday and Sunday. These should be controlled by a time switch. Any variation on these hours should be approved by the LPA. This should be secured as a Condition of Approval.

I trust these comments are of assistance.

Regards,

Anita Parry  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology