

Endon High School, Leek Road Endon SWT Further Comments

Application Reference: SMD/2024/0360

Location: Endon High School, Leek Road, Endon

Proposed development: Proposed Car Park and one-way system. Relocate pedestrian Access. Existing surfaces, Grass, and Asphalt.

Documents Read:

- Ecological Appraisal, Endon High School, Leek Road, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
Prepared for Dawkes & Co Limited
Fauna Forest Ecology Limited
January 2025

In response to our previous comments, a Ecological Appraisal has been submitted. This addresses our request for a PEA and raises some measures that should be secured by planning condition.

Our other comments have not been addressed and these will need to be addressed. These can largely be addressed as part of the Net Gain Condition through a Biodiversity Gain Plan. However, supplying the date that the metric was published is a minimum validation requirement as is the requirement to explain where the applicant proposes to use an earlier date for the pre-development biodiversity value of the site, this proposed earlier date and the reasons for proposing that date. These need to be supplied before planning permission can be granted. Either the application form needs updating or this can be supplied as a separate document. For this reason, we have to maintain a **holding objection**.

Suggested Conditions

These refer to the PRA and not the application as a whole.

Pre-commencement condition to approve a sensitive nocturnal lighting scheme for during and post conservation works including recommendations in the Ecological Appraisal. We would recommend utilising Bat Conservation Trust's [Guidance on Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night](#).

The number, type and citing of bat and bird boxes to be agreed as a pre-commencement condition.

Condition regarding nesting birds as per Ecological Appraisal recommendations - works to be undertaken outside of the bird nesting period. Birds typically nest between February through to September (inclusive). If the works must be undertaken during the bird nesting period, work must not commence until a suitably qualified ecologist has confirmed there is no evidence of bird nesting within the area to be impacted by the proposed works. If an active nest is discovered, an exclusion zone should be established, and works must be halted in that area until the nest is no longer active.

Reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) should be put in place and secured with a condition to avoid entrapment of mammals and amphibians, examples of these include:

- During construction, it is recommended that deep, steep sided excavations are not left overnight without an escape route, either a ramp or sloping bank. Similarly, it is advised that any pipes stored on site are capped.
- Open excavations should be checked in the morning on a daily basis for the presence of any animals that may have fallen in during the night.
- Any chemicals will be stored securely.
- If a hedgehog is found onsite, it should be picked up with gloved hands, placed in a ventilated box and released into suitable nearby vegetation that will be unaffected by the proposed works. If a hedgehog is injured, thought to be injured, it should be immediately taken to a local vets/wildlife hospital for treatment.

There should be a sign off system for the PRAs ensuring all personnel working on site have read, understood and will adhere to them prior to them commencing work on the scheme.