



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: *Richard Hart*

FROM: *Luke Wallace*

DATE: *12 January 2022*

SUBJECT: *20211541 / Metropolitan Police Specialist Training Centre, Gravesend*

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the County Council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application; and whether sufficient and appropriate ecological information has been provided to assist in its determination. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the Planning Officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

No ecological information has been submitted with this application. As a result of reviewing the data we have available to us (including aerial photos and biological records) and the information submitted with the planning application, we advise that the proposed development has limited potential to result in ecological impacts. This is because the development footprint appears to be entirely within an area of existing hardstanding.

However, due to the adjacent sensitive and designated sites (primarily the Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site), it is important that there should be no excessive light spill associated with the new building. If planning permission is granted, we advise that the informative and condition below are included.

Biodiversity and Lighting

To mitigate against potential adverse effects on biodiversity/the adjacent designated site, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2021, we suggest that the Bat Conservation Trust's 'Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting' is consulted in the lighting design of the development. We advise that the incorporation of sensitive lighting design for bats is submitted to the local planning authority and secured via an attached condition with any planning permission. Suggested wording:

Prior to completion/first use, a lighting design plan for biodiversity will be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The plan will show:

- The type and locations of external lighting.*
- The expected light spill in lux levels.*
- The expected times of operations.*
- That areas to be lit will not have adverse impacts on biodiversity.*

All external lighting will be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the plan and will be maintained thereafter.

Breeding Bird Informative

Habitats are present on and around the site that provide opportunities for breeding birds. Any work to vegetation/structures that may provide suitable nesting habitats should be carried out outside of the bird breeding season (March to August) to avoid destroying or damaging bird nests in use or being built. If vegetation/structures need to be removed during the breeding season, mitigation measures need to be implemented during construction. This includes examination by an experienced ecologist prior to starting work and if any nesting birds are found, development must cease until after the juveniles have fledged. We suggest the following informative is included with any planning consent:

The applicant is reminded that, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (section 1), it is an offence to remove, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. Planning consent for a development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this Act. Breeding bird habitat is present on the application site and assumed to contain nesting birds between 1st March and 31st August, unless a recent survey has been undertaken by a competent ecologist and has shown that nesting birds are not present.

Luke Wallace
Biodiversity Officer