



CGO Ecology Ltd 31 Walkford Road Christchurch Dorset BH23 5QD UK

Hinckley CDC (Community Diagnostic Centre) - Landscaping and Lighting - Ecology Comments

23rd March 2024

CGO Ecology Ltd (CGO) was commissioned to review the landscaping and lighting strategy for the above project by the Darwin Group (the Client).

The review was carried out by Dan Hawthorn (BSc MSc MRSB ACIEEM), Principal Ecologist and bat lead for CGO. Dan is an experienced ecologist (over 10 years' experience in consultancy) who holds Natural England (2020-48134-CLS-CLS) and Natural Resources Wales (S091400/1) bat licences. He has worked on many ecologically-sensitive lighting and landscape masterplan design projects in a variety of large infrastructure settings. The review was undertaken in accordance with current guidance (Collins, 2023; ILP 2023; Reason & Wray, 2023). The documents reviewed are as follows;

- PLANT168 - Issue Sheet 05022024
- PLANT168-ZZ-XX-DR-L-001-P01 Landscape GA Plan
- PLANT168-ZZ-XX-DR-L-002-P01 Planting Plan and Schedule
- PLANT168-ZZ-XX-DR-L-003-P01 Nesting and Roosting Plan
- PLANT168-ZZ-XX-RP-L-004-P01 Landscape Management Plan
- 7362-MCP-V1-00-DR-E-1000
- 7362-MCP-V1-00-DR-E-9000
- 7362-MCP-V1-01-DR-E-1001
- 7362-MCP-V1-02-DR-E-1002
- 7362-MCP-V1-ZZ-DR-E-7006
- 0104181-HLEA-XX-XX-DR-E-708002

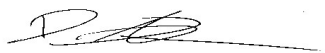
CGO involvement in this project began with bat activity surveys and internal inspections in 2023 (Hawthorn & Gleed-Owen, 2023). The findings of those surveys noted limited bat use of the Site, mostly as a commuting and foraging resource for small numbers of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).

Plantology developed the landscaping strategy with CGO advising on placement of ecological enhancement measures, comprising bird and bat boxes. The lighting strategy was developed by McCann & Partners. CGO has reviewed these documents and considers both the landscaping and lighting strategies to adhere to accepted guidance with regards to bats.

General mitigation measures are to be applied to facilitate continued bat foraging and commuting on existing dark corridors. These comprise adhering to the proposed lux levels, use of directional and timed lighting, and preventing any light spill on the bat and bird boxes.

From current understanding and under the parameters of the above mitigation measures the effects of this development in the area is considered likely to be negligible.

Best regards



Daniel Hawthorn BSc MSc MRSB ACIEEM, Principal Ecologist, CGO Ecology Ltd

References

- CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1 (Sept 2019)*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Collins, J. (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 4th Edition*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Hawthorn, D. & Gleed-Owen, C. (2023) *Updated Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment and associated nocturnal surveys for Hinckley and District Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1AG*. CGO Ecology Ltd, Christchurch.
- ILP (2023) *Bats and artificial lighting in the UK. Guidance Note 08/23*. Institution of Lighting Professionals, Rugby.
- Reason, P.F. & Wray, S. (2023). *UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Version 1.1*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.