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**Statement to Planning Committee 28/06/2023**

**22/04720/FUL**

Eastern Sports Field, Sports Training Village, University Of Bath Campus, Claverton Down, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset

Construction of a floodlit, recyclable all-weather turf pitch and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), and additional lighting to the existing training strip.

***Against***

**The Climate and Ecological Emergency and this Councils Action Plan objectives should be considered by this committee in the context of all decisions on development proposals which have unintended consequences on the natural environment and designated landscapes.**

**Increased floodlighting on this site would result in adverse impact on the dark skies appearance and character of the AONB, the setting of the World Heritage Site, and the setting of the Green Belt, and would continue to exacerbate ongoing, cumulative lightspill across Bath’s landscape setting.**

Existing floodlights on the site have already demonstrated detrimental lightspill and ‘sky glow’ experienced in long-range night time landscape views across Bath, with resulting, permanent change to local landscape character. Further provision of floodlights would undoubtedly increase the volume and perceived level of lighting and lightspill not only within the localised area, but in far-reaching views across the City and its rural environs.

The increased number of lighting columns would unavoidably increase lightspill on adjoining Green Belt and AONB land and would likely result in some associated disturbance to habitats. Development would therefore fail to appropriately AVOID harm to biodiversity, and would NOT make a positive contribution to the Ecological Network.

Where Policy SB19 recognises that new floodlighting is likely to be necessary, this is NOT an essential factor in delivering replacement playing fields of an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, particularly given the lack of floodlighting on the eastern playing field allocated for development. Increased floodlighting would further be contrary to the Policy’s principle to “**minimise the amount of dusk to dawn illumination on the campus and light spill from the campus to moderate the impact of development on the AONB, the significance of the World Heritage Site.**”

**Proposals would result in ongoing, cumulative harm to the landscape setting OUV of the WHS and the appearance of the Cotswolds AONB and Green Belt, contrary to Policies D8, NE2, NE2a, and HE1.**

**We therefore call for this application to be refused.**