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To: Town Planning
Subject: 2024/1395 Brooklands College

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting the Bat Group regarding the above application for discharge of condition 44. We have read the accompanying Woodland Management plan prepared by Ecosupport and have a number of queries that require clarification prior to determination.

At present surveys of the woodland have not been completed and it is not clear which trees are being felled and whether any have bat potential. Looking through the other outstanding conditions there does not appear to be another that will cover this and so we wonder whether it is too early to be considering a discharge of this condition? We would welcome further guidance from the Wildlife Trust on this point and will defer to them on the decision.

The Plan refers to paths and cycleways being created through the woodland, but doesn't mention lighting. We would expect there to be no lighting on any woodland paths or tracks, but this should be confirmed.

The Plan appears to imply that the Land Trust will take over all of the woodland parcels i.e. not just the SANG woodland, but parcels 1 - 5. We would be grateful for confirmation that our interpretation is correct.

Although we are pleased with the number of bat boxes proposed we are concerned that only two types are proposed and both are cavity type boxes. We would like to see a broader mix with a proportion of crevice types as well such as Schwegler 1FF.

The cavity bat boxes will require an annual inspection and clean by a licenced bat worker, but this doesn't appear to be included in the schedule of work.

Will the trees selected for thinning in later years be subjected to ecological assessment?

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Regards,

Ross Baker

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