

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Address:

Cwmavon RFC, Welfare Ground, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, SA12 9DF

Proposed Development:

Replacement of 12 no. existing 2000W metal halide floodlights with 12 no. 1500W energy-efficient LED floodlights mounted on existing floodlighting columns.

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the replacement of existing floodlighting at Cwmavon RFC Welfare Ground.

The proposal is limited to the replacement of existing floodlight luminaires and does not involve any alterations to the existing floodlighting columns, development footprint, site layout, vegetation, or surrounding landscape features. The purpose of the proposal is to improve energy efficiency and lighting performance whilst reducing light spill into the surrounding environment.

2. Site Description

The Welfare Ground is an established sports facility comprising a rugby pitch illuminated by six existing floodlighting columns, each supporting two floodlight units. Ancillary facilities include a clubhouse, grandstand, spectator areas and an adjoining football pitch.

The site is located within a well-established recreational setting and is surrounded by a variety of green infrastructure assets including woodland, riparian habitat associated with the River Afan, allotments and open grassed areas.

The proposed works are confined to the replacement of the existing floodlight units only. No excavation, earthworks, vegetation clearance or alterations to existing site levels are required.



3. Existing Green Infrastructure

The principal green infrastructure features surrounding the site are:

- **River Afan**, located to the south and south-west of the rugby pitch.
- **Woodland and mature vegetation** adjoining the river corridor.
- **Allotment gardens** providing a valuable mosaic of habitats.
- **Open grassland and sports pitches** surrounding the facility.

These features contribute to local ecological connectivity, providing foraging, nesting and commuting opportunities for wildlife, including birds and bats which may utilise the river corridor and woodland edge habitats.

The existing sports facility has been operational for many years and already benefits from floodlighting associated with evening sporting activities.

4. Description of the Proposed Development

The proposal comprises:

- Removal of 12 existing 2000W metal halide floodlights.
- Installation of 12 replacement 1500W LED floodlights.
- Retention of all existing floodlighting columns and infrastructure.
- No increase in the number, height or location of floodlights.
- No increase in the area illuminated.

The proposed LED luminaires have improved optical control and direct light more precisely onto the playing surface than the existing fittings. As demonstrated by the accompanying Lighting Assessment and Light Spillage Plan, the proposal will reduce the extent of light spill beyond the site boundary.

5. Assessment of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Impacts

Habitats and Vegetation

The proposal will not result in:

- Loss of trees, hedgerows or woodland.
- Removal of vegetation.
- Disturbance to watercourses.
- Changes to land drainage or surface water runoff.
- Fragmentation of habitats or ecological corridors.

All existing green infrastructure features will remain unchanged.

Lighting and Ecology

Artificial lighting can adversely affect nocturnal wildlife through increased disturbance and habitat avoidance. However, the proposed LED fittings have been selected to provide enhanced lighting control with reduced upward and outward light spill when compared with the existing metal halide lamps.

The improved lighting design will:

- Reduce illumination of adjacent woodland and riverbank habitats.
- Minimise light trespass beyond the playing area.
- Reduce potential disturbance to nocturnal species.
- Maintain darker conditions within surrounding ecological corridors.

As a result, the proposal represents an environmental improvement over the existing situation.

Residential Amenity

The nearest residential properties are located at Ebbw Vale Row and Heol Undeb, approximately 75 metres from the site.

The proposed lighting arrangement will not increase lighting levels beyond those currently experienced and is expected to reduce light spill due to the more precise beam control provided by the LED luminaires. Consequently, no adverse impact upon residential amenity is anticipated.

6. Biodiversity Enhancement

Whilst the proposal is limited in scope, it nevertheless delivers measurable environmental benefits through:

- Reduced light spill into adjacent habitats.
- Improved protection of woodland and river corridor ecology.
- Enhanced dark corridors for wildlife movement.
- Seasonal and time-limited operation of the floodlights (October–March, Monday–Friday only, with no use after 21:00).
- Reduced energy consumption and associated carbon emissions.
- More efficient use of resources through the installation of modern lighting technology.
- Erection of two bat boxes at eaves height. One on the southeast elevation and one on the southwest elevation.

The replacement floodlights therefore provide a biodiversity enhancement when compared with the existing lighting arrangement.

7. Compliance with Green Infrastructure Principles

The proposal accords with the principles of Green Infrastructure by:

1. **Maintaining existing green infrastructure assets**, including the River Afan corridor, woodland and allotment areas.
 2. **Avoiding direct impacts on habitats and ecological features.**
 3. **Reducing environmental disturbance** through improved lighting control.
 4. **Supporting biodiversity enhancement** by reducing light pollution affecting adjacent habitats and erecting bat boxes.
 5. **Promoting sustainability** through the installation of energy-efficient technology.
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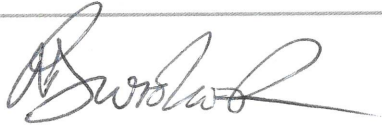
8. Conclusion

The proposed replacement of the existing metal halide floodlights with modern LED units represents a sustainable upgrade to an established sporting facility.

No habitats, trees, vegetation, ecological features or green infrastructure assets will be lost or adversely affected by the development. The proposed lighting system will deliver improved energy efficiency and significantly better lighting control, resulting in reduced light spill into the adjacent woodland, river corridor and surrounding environment.

Accordingly, it is considered that the proposal will maintain and enhance the site's green infrastructure network, provide biodiversity benefits through reduced artificial light impacts, and fully satisfy the objective of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in accordance with current planning policy.

Signed:



Name: Rhys Woolcock

Position: Chairman

Date: 13th July 2026

