

# Memo

To: Matthew Burns

From: Cathy Holwill (RBC Ecology Consultations)

CC:

Date: 24 February 2026

Re: Planning application ref: PL/26/0162

Address: RIVER ACADEMY SCHOOL, 7 RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING, RG1 8EQ

Description: Installation of new lighting columns along with Low Energy LED lighting to existing netball courts

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The application is for the installation of new floodlighting at River Academy School in Reading.

The application site comprises the new River Academy where there are netball courts to the rear of the building and adjacent to Rivermead floodlit area. Habitat around the netball courts comprise grassland with the River Thames river corridor approximately 270m north of the site.

Benefits of the submitted plans are lighting with 0 % upward light ratio (=> no sky glow), lights at a relatively low mounting height of 8m, and specifications showing asymmetric beam measurement of 50 degrees (this will point light directly onto the courts rather than sideways and reduce the amount of lighting on neighbouring habitats). All of these measures substantially reduce light spill and ecological disturbance.

However the lighting is shown as 5400 K representing a cool white temperature. Such lighting is known to have adverse effect on night wildlife including bats and invertebrates. - In accordance with best practice guidance the use of warm white lighting with colour temperature of 2700k or less should instead be provided unless there is a robust reasoning is provided to explain why this cannot be reduced.

Furthermore and to further reduce other potential impacts on wildlife, we would expect details of lighting curfew or timer controls to ensure lights are switched off when not in use and information detailing how light spill at the site boundaries will be minimised and controlled at the site boundary