

Statement to Standards Committee 15th July 2025 – Alex Hansen

The University of Bath recently finished construction of the Multi Use Games Area.

The games area is surrounded by a 4-meter-high wooden fence which stops light spilling onto the bat corridors.

Inside the wooden stockade is an area of land which was **not** included in the planning application, this area has a planning condition that prohibits artificial illumination. yet it is now illuminated by eight floodlights.

Sports floodlighting has been in operation for more than *two* decades without **any** evidence of planning permission, while over a similar time the university has been developing facilities, estimated at £100m, where irregularities in planning applications have now been identified.

20 of those developments include external artificial illumination that was not declared to the Planning Authority. The B&NES Ecologists appear to have been misled. Several of those developments took place close to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), an SAC recommended by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) the advisors to Government.

15% of the UK's **total** population of Greater Horseshoe bats *plus* 20 Bechstein's bats, are found at this SAC. The JNCC stated that, this location is one of the best areas within the United Kingdom to preserve and protect these bats. Bechstein's are one of the U.K.'s most endangered mammals and are protected by UK and European legislation and are included on the "Red List" of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

This committee has previously been informed about dinners held by the University, each with a budget of £15,000, but there is more.

The Council have explained that its lease for the campus does *not* include the boundary wall situated between the campus and the National Trust's Bushey Norwood Field. Yet, the university have been maintaining this wall, thereby making payments in goods and services to the National Trust of £333,064.00.

Furthermore, the University of Bath own a Field Station in Bathampton which they are preparing to giveaway, for free, to the National Trust.

The National Trust have explained that this land has no fiscal value other than for Biodiversity Net Gain. This is surprising, as the Field Station adjoins land owned by the National Trust valued at £14,700.00 per acre and is close to the former Community Asset land which was valued at £15,000.00 per acre.

Using sales information on one might value the Field Station at half a million pounds.