

The British Lichen Society
c/o Royal Society of Biology
Naoroji Street
London WC1X
WC1X0GB



British Lichen Society

Surrey County Council
Case Officer: Ms Janine Wright
mwcd@surreycc.gov.uk

SCC Reference: **2021/0130**

Application number: **GU21/CON/00038**

18th January 2022

Dear Ms Wright,

I am writing to you on behalf of the British Lichen Society to express the Society's concern regarding the Planning Application (reference above) for the proposed hydrogen production development in Albury Park and its potential to have a significant negative impact on a nationally important assemblage of lichens.

Albury Park has a nationally important (an assessment based on the UK government's criteria) assemblage of lichens that grow on old/veteran trees in a pasture woodland/parkland habitat. The lichen assemblage at Albury Park is the best example of its type in Surrey. We think there is also the potential to affect an important example of a NERC Act Section 41 Priority Habitat - Wood-Pasture and Parkland – and to affect irreplaceable habitat.

The documents in the Planning Application appear to show that the proposed scheme will, in the operational phase, change the air quality in Albury Park and as a result the important lichen assemblage could be significantly negatively affected.

The presence of this ecological feature (or potential for its occurrence) appears not to have been identified by the Applicant. No assessment, consequently, has been carried out as to how, or whether, the proposed scheme might affect this important ecological feature. If there are significant affects associated with the proposed scheme, it may be possible to mitigate them but that would be dependent on the necessary ecological work being done.

We appreciate that lichens and their habitats are perceived as complex ecological features and would be happy to provide you with further details and, if you wish, guidance on the lichen features that could be affected by the proposed development at Albury Park. Given that there is a potentially nationally important ecological feature that could be impacted, we have copied Natural England into this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Neil A Sanderson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil A Sanderson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vice-president, British Lichen Society

(Email xxxxxxx & Phone xxxxxxx)

The society is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (number 1194213)