

Ecology response amended for F/22/93703 HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS, LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9SJ

Replacement modular building over two-storeys with associated car parking and fencing and removal of live fire training metal container units (revised scheme to planning permission F/20/88055).

David Huckfield

28/11/22

I have reviewed the updated Ecological desk-based assessment by Hampshire County Council Ecology Team (November 2022). Reptile protection measures have been added.

The amenity grassland to the southeast corner of this site described in paragraph 4.20 is part of an area which will be enhanced for reptiles as part of the reptile mitigation and enhancement for application F/22/93473. Contractors for both applications will need to be kept informed of this situation by the site managers. This area will retain its mown edges so should not conflict with this development however, this proposal will encroach on the mown grassland.

In section 5.8 on reptile protection measures it states that any reptiles found during the removal of temporary fencing would be carefully relocated to adjacent retained suitable habitat. Will an ecologist be on hand to supervise this procedure due to the risk of slow worms being present? If not, then very specific instructions about handling slow worms must be given in a toolbox talk to all operatives. If slow worms are under stress or are handled by the tail, it will detach from the body, leaving the animals open to infection and possible death.

The planning update letter from Katherine Snell (November 2022) and the Proposed Drainage Layout by WML Consulting (P02, October 2022) explain the surface water drainage proposals which are satisfactory, as this is a replacement building. The loss of 120 m² of amenity grassland is small in terms of its proportion of the wider site, however it must be clear that existing vegetated areas must be preserved on this increasingly built-up and paved over site. Another area on the wider site can be used as mitigation for the loss of this amenity grass area.

Biodiversity enhancements, as required by National Planning Policy, are required, and have not yet been proposed for this application. The planning update letter from Katherine Snell (November 2022) states that a green roof is not practical due to photo-voltaic panel installation. Green walls, bat and bird boxes can be considered. Otherwise, another part of the larger site can be enhanced, as recommended in my previous ecology response (26/9/22).

Lisa Malter

Ecologist