

Lowans Ecology & Associates

Louise Lowans BSc. (Hons) MCIEEM

Correspondence Address:

Suite 3, 7 The Square

Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1JA

Mob: 07983 664173

Email: lowansecology@gmail.com

Mr A Burgess
Andrew Burgess Planning Ltd
Sent via email to: andrew@andrewburgessplanning.co.uk

17th December 2022

**Re:- Response to ecology comments dated 15/12/2022. Application F/22/94046
Land at Braeside House, 49 Bishopstoke Road, Bishopstoke, Hampshire SO50 6BF**

Dear Andrew

Please find below my response to the points raised by Lisa Malter, ecologist at Eastleigh Borough Council on 12th December 2022.

- 1. It is a requirement for all planning applications to demonstrate biodiversity net gain and no net gain is shown in this application. Due to the extension of the building footprint and the proposed impacts on the trees, this proposal would result in biodiversity net loss. There would be a significant and unacceptable impact on the trees from the proposed pruning. Dead and decaying wood is good for biodiversity as it provides habitat and food for a wide range of wildlife. I object to the extensive pruning of these trees which is proposed to facilitate this development.*

Net gain has been detailed in Section 6, pages 13 to 15, of the EclA. This includes details of 1 x integrated bat box, 2 x integrated swift boxes and 2 x integrated bee bricks to be built into the proposed dwelling. Details are also included for hedgehog access to be created within the site, if the garden is to be fenced/walled.

Jeremy Barrell of Barrell Tree Consultancy has responded with regard to the proposed pruning of the trees. Dead and decaying wood is of course good for biodiversity, I therefore recommend that some of the branches of the trees that are to be pruned are left stacked within the site.

- 2. A buffer to the River Itchen SAC (chalk river BAP habitat) is essential to maintain water quality and the integrity of the riparian habitat. The 8 m buffer shown on the plans should be measured from the top of the riverbank but appears to be measured from the water's edge, so it would not be 8 m (and may be closer to 5 m) if measured correctly. The driveway cuts into this buffer zone even further.*

The closest point of the driveway, to the river will be 5.4m, the remaining driveway will be between 5.8m and 6.5m from the river. The proposed driveway will be installed using a Netprove 50 no dig porous system. The distance from the northwest corner, of the proposed dwelling, to the river will be 12.9m and from the southwest corner, of the proposed dwelling, to the river it will be 9.2m.

Section 6.10, pages 14 and 15, of the EclA details a Working Methodology to ensure the River Itchen SAC and SSSI are protected, from any damage, e.g. materials/spoil falling into the river, machinery/materials eroding the river bank, run-off, etc during the proposed build.

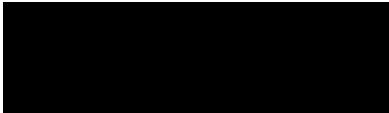
3. *The distance from the rear of the proposed dwelling may only be 5.5 m from the woodland edge to the north of the property. This lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat and development must not be allowed so close to this woodland.*

The distance from the northeast corner, of the proposed dwelling, to the woodland will be 6.7m and from the northwest corner, of the proposed dwelling, to the woodland it will be 8.6m.

Section 6.1, point 5, of the EcIA details a lighting strategy to avoid indirect impacts on the SAC, SSSI and woodland and species that may use these features.

Should you require further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Louise Lowans.

Louise Lowans