



ecosupport

Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh House
Upper Market Street
Eastleigh
SO50 9YN

12th December 2019

RE: F/19/86252 Chalcot, York Rd, Netley Abbey, Southampton, SO31 5DD

Dear Sir/Madam,

The information provided is in response to comments raised by Lisa Malter Ecologist at Eastleigh Borough Council dated 20th November 2019 in relation to the above referenced planning application.

Concerns have been raised on the following points in relation to this application. I have provided information and have addressed these points below:

Wildlife Corridor & Management

We have proposed a 1.5m wildlife corridor for the project at this stage to promote continued wildlife movement along the cliff top edge for species including Hedgehog and provision of increased floristic diversity providing nectar sources for invertebrates (hymenoptera) for which the adjacent area of soft cliff habitats are associated. The current 1.5m corridor will be implemented at a time post completion of required sea defences (subject to separate future planning application) which will cease the erosion of the site. This will allow the proposed 1.5m corridor to be implemented in full. It is the intention to further inclusion of wildflower turf within any areas that remain on site that will be laid to managed amenity lawn with a twice yearly cut management regime to allow herbs to flower and provide further nectar sources for invertebrates. Please see updated **Plan 1**.

Bird Species

Three species of bird have been mentioned of concern; Swift, Peregrine and Shag.

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We endeavor to provide Swift nesting opportunities wherever possible however the inclusion of a Swift nest box into this particular proposed development will not likely be appropriate or successful. The tree cover in the area and that will remain even after the removal of a single tree from the site will make any elevation of the newly proposed property quite possibly too difficult a flight line for Swifts to access any proposed nesting feature. It is for this reason that a Swift nest feature was not included in the proposal.

Peregrines nest locally upon higher elevations such as cliffs, quarries and tall buildings. Shag are predominantly an oceanic species which have been recorded in Southampton Water irregularly however are generally more associated during Winter and dispersal periods and have been recorded in very few numbers within Southampton Water. Shag tend to nest gregariously and alongside other such cliff nesting species with direct access and flight to oceanic foraging resources. The nearest most recent such nesting site for this species is the Main Bench chalk cliffs on the Isle of Wight. The Southampton Water area does not provide this direct availability to offshore foraging opportunities. However other factors of disturbance would be considered as relevant in determining the unlikelihood of the location being appropriate for this species.

The cliff face adjacent and associated with Chalcot is considered too low in elevation making them exposed to disturbance by human and predator activities for the probability of both these species nesting in this location. In addition there is a nearby active Fox den along the cliff. This den has been used for many years and this alone would be a major factor in reducing any likelihood of any cliff nesting bird species from successfully attempting to nest in this location. Even without the close association of this particular Fox den, Foxes in the general area will naturally use foreshores as they provide a significant foraging resource and the near association of nesting birds to the beach will likely be significantly at risk. The cliff face is of a topography that would allow Foxes to likely access most of its elevation.

The particular species mentioned (Peregrine and Shag) themselves tend to nest in very exposed areas with both generally tending to use very inaccessible nesting locations, in part likely due to potential of risk of predation of young from the nest.

Taking this risk of predation into consideration, and the fact that the cliff is only a few metres in height from the beach with regular anthropogenic disturbances (i.e. walkers and dogs along the beach) it would seem highly unlikely for nesting birds not be continually disturbed in this location. It is therefore not considered that these species would have any likelihood of using the cliff face for nesting.

Invertebrates Hymenoptera

The application will not directly impact upon the cliff dwelling hymenoptera and other associated invertebrates. Potential nectar sources available on site currently will be supplemented and with increased availability. This will come about from the wildlife corridor being left to develop and allow current forbs to flower rather than be regularly mown. Current common forb diversity will be increased through the proposed wildlife corridor, to be managed appropriately, and the supplement of additional species through the inclusion of wildflower turf (**Plan 1**). There will be no net loss of current species only the opportunity for net gain within the wildlife corridor with additional nectar sources becoming available for hymenoptera species.

***Lixus scabricollis* (weevil with limited recent UK records)**

This species is associated with coastal sites and Sea Beet *Beta vulgaris subsp maritime*. It is likely a recent colonist or possibly an accidental introduction (Hymen & Parsons).

Sea Beet is present along the shingle beach below the adjacent cliff to the Chalcot site. The cliff face and beach is outside of this application's boundary and there will not be any disturbance or likely indirect impact to any part of the shingle or associated vegetation along the beach frontage including Sea Beet vegetation of which the Weevil is associated with.

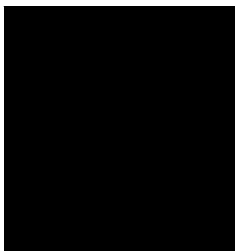
In conclusion it is considered that the proposal will not have any impact upon the species.

Future Sea Defences

Any future application associated with sea defences to Chalcot will take this species and burrowing hymenoptera into consideration during preparation of mitigation and compensation strategy.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Dean Swensson

Managing Director and Principal Ecologist

Plan 1. Ecological Compensation & Site Enhancement

Wildlife Corridor
1.5metres wide to be retained without any impact along western boundary (to be protected with signage and barrier fencing)

Provision of gaps in fencing both ends of the wildlife corridor to enable wildlife movement

Provision of 2 Wall mounted, 2 tree erected bat boxes and 2 tree erected bird boxes to be placed in appropriate areas as advised by the overseeing ecologist.

Existing non native shrubs on site to be removed and replaced using native fruit and nectar bearing shrubs

Constructed Hedgehog Refugia (houses) Timber to be used from felled Oak to construct and to a suitable design

Both the dedicated wildlife corridor and areas of remaining lawn to be subject to biodiversity improvement with turfing these areas with a suitable wildflower turf. To be cut twice a year between mid of August and November.

Existing Foul Manhole

MANCHESTER ROAD

Additional fence gaps to provide connectivity for hedgehogs

Existing Foul Sewer

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Project: Chalcott, Manchester Rd, Netley
Title: Site Layout

Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked	Job No.	Drawing No.	Revision
1:100@A3	June '19	JD		JD-022	SL01	



scale 1:100

