

Additional Ecology response for F/22/93954 LONG GARDEN COTTAGE, WINCHESTER ROAD, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2BX

Erection of 2no. detached dwellings

Rachael Morris

24/1/23

I have reviewed additional information sent by email from the project ecologist (23/1/23) which states that the area previously identified as potential reptile habitat is usually grazed by horses which had not been present for a few weeks prior to the PEA survey. Therefore, it is not likely that reptiles will be present in this area, and it is no longer necessary to survey.

A potential reptile receptor site in an area of higher ecological value was identified and shown on a plan as requested. This is an area of grassland and scattered trees to the north of the site which can be retained, fenced off and enhanced with wood piles and allowed to grow into tussocky grassland for reptiles. The mature tree lines on the eastern aspect and hedgerow on western aspect of the property are now intended to be retained which will maintain commuting habitat and cover for any reptiles that might be using the site. An amended site plan will be required to show the extent of the proposed fenced off reptile habitat area. A habitat management plan to ensure that these areas remains suitable for reptiles in the long term will be required and can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

10/11/22

The drainage details shown on rev B of the Proposed Site Plan by ACA show three soakaways located 5 m from any building, and permeable paving in the shared drive. This is a change from the information in the DAS (porous pavement, water butts and outfall to the watercourse along the northern edge of the site). If soakaways are already in use for the existing dwelling, that is satisfactory. If soakaways are not currently in use, an infiltration test will be required to determine whether soakaways and permeable paving will be successful due to the soil type and groundwater level in this area. The use of water butts to collect water for the garden is also encouraged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

8/11/22

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Collington Winter Environmental (Rev 2, October 2022). The recommendations in this report are sound and shall be implemented. This includes:

*Any vegetation removal should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March to September, inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist should undertake a nesting bird check no more than 48 hours prior to removal. If nesting activity is observed, the nest(s) should*

*be left in situ until the young have fledged and left the nest. A suitable buffer (at least 5 m) will be maintained and determined by the ecologist.*

*Any proposed lighting/existing lighting should follow the guidance outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document “Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting” (2005) and BCT’s “Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK” (2018). The lighting recommendations in section 4.3.12 are appropriate.*

The precautionary working methods for reptiles, breeding birds, badgers and terrestrial mammals such as hedgehogs described in the report are appropriate and can be conditioned.

The location of a proposed reptile receptor site (described as retained grassland to the south of the site) is not clear. This must be identified on a plan, checked for the presence of an existing reptile population and enhanced if necessary.

Removal of potential hedgehog habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site.

Any closed board fencing that is erected at the property boundaries must have periodic holes (measuring 13cm by 13 cm minimum) at its base to allow the movement of animals, such as hedgehogs, to promote habitat connectivity and extended foraging ranges.

Biodiversity enhancement is required. Built-in (integral) bat and swift nest bricks or boxes should be built into the new dwellings. The locations and specifications of these features can be conditioned. The domestic gardens should be enhanced with additional flowering plants and shrubs which provide a long flowering period to attract pollinators. Native species of flowering shrubs and trees should be included in the planting scheme and non-flowering conifers should be avoided.

The DAS mentions the use of porous pavement, water butts and outfall to the watercourse along the northern edge of the site. This must be shown in a surface water drainage plan.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist