

Additional Ecology response for F/22/94243 THE BRIGADIER GERARD, BOTLEY ROAD,
HORTON HEATH, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7DQ

Construction of car park extension for the purpose incidental to the existing use of land

Rebecca Altman

16/3/23

I have reviewed the Ecological Impact Assessment report by Ecosa (March 2023). The report states that:

The site is dominated by improved grassland, bare ground, dense scrub and native species poor hedgerow. The site is assessed as having suitability to support foraging and commuting bats, hazel dormouse, reptiles, breeding birds and European hedgehog. All of which could be adversely affected by accidental damage and direct harm (be directly harmed?) during the site clearance. Mitigation measures include sensitive timing of works for birds and hazel dormouse, supervised destructive searching for reptiles and hazel dormouse. Compensation and enhancement measures include provision of bird and bat boxes and creation of wildflower grassland.

Along the southern boundary the grassland was waterlogged at the time of the survey.

The precautionary working methods, mitigation, compensation and enhancements recommended in the report are sound and should be implemented. The timing of vegetation removal must adhere to the guidelines stated in the report or if this is not possible then only if immediately preceded by a thorough check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

The report states that there are no sites of importance for nature conservation within 1 km, however the wider site is adjacent to Scorey's Copse SINC and Scorey's Copse Meadow SINC.

The construction exclusion zone strip on the eastern edge of the site will serve as a suitable buffer. The proposed site layout plan shows this as a raised grass area, but it should be planted as wildflower grassland with flowering plants allowed to flower and set seed before being mowed. If this area is proposed as informal additional outdoor space for the pub, then the noise impact of this area on the adjacent woodland and houses should be assessed. It should not be used as a dog toileting area or a smoking area for patrons of the pub.

The site proposals plan in Appendix 1 does not show the proposed wildflower grassland strip on the eastern edge of the site. Biodiversity net gain for this site will not be possible if both of these areas are not planted with flowering species to replace what has been lost by removing the scrub.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

