

Ecology response for DC/23/94854 Land to the South of Netley Hill Farm, St John's Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 4DG

Discharge of conditions 3 (CEMP), 4 (LEMP) and 6 (materials) for planning permission F/21/91590 for construction of detached three-bedroom chalet bungalow and integral garage, with parking, amenity space and landscaping and access from St John's Road

Gary Osmond

11/4/23

Condition 3

I have reviewed the CEMP (March 2023). The car parking, materials storage and mobile oasis welfare units are shown to the northeast of the existing dwelling (approved in F/18/82592) and within its garden. It is not clear whether the landscaping of this garden is already in place and what habitat would be affected by siting the parking, storage and welfare units in this area. There is a large tree at the site entrance whose root protection area and canopy would be at risk from damage during deliveries, parking and siting of the welfare unit. How will this be protected? Information has not yet been provided on deliveries (c) temporary lighting (f) and surface water drainage (g) as specified in the condition.

Condition 4

The LEMP proposes evergreen topiary, evergreen hedges, and a shrub bed to the front of the property, with brindle block paving in the driveway and parking area and a shingle margin towards the rear garden to be installed after completion of works. A bat box and a sparrow nest box are proposed as biodiversity enhancement measures.

Evergreen topiary and hedges do not provide any resources for pollinators or wildlife, other than possible nesting sites for birds. Flowering and fruiting shrubs would produce nectar, pollen, fruits and seeds providing value for a variety of wildlife, as well as attracting insects for birds and bats to feed upon. A list of suitable plants for pollinators can be found at rhs.org.uk/plantsforpollinators.

The ecology response for F/21/91590 (21 October 2021) states that *The suitable retained habitat which would serve as a potential reptile receptor site must be maintained as long tussocky grassland with scrub to provide continued habitat for reptiles as described in the precautionary method statement outlined in the EcIA. The scrub around the site boundaries should be maintained as habitat for nesting birds.*

I don't see any evidence that reptile habitat has been maintained on this site or any information about reptile habitat management.

The notes for F/21/91590 mention a pre-existing bat box on tree T11c, so this is not an additional enhancement. The position of the proposed additional bat box and sparrow terrace must be shown on the plan.

The previous ecology response also stated that *Any closed board fencing must have hedgehog access holes (13 x 13 cm) cut into the baseboards to allow hedgehogs and other small mammals free access in and out of the site.* Closed board fencing is shown on the LEMP between the two dwellings, however no hedgehog openings are shown on the plan.

This additional information is required before conditions 3 and 4 can be discharged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist