

Additional Ecology response for H/23/95031 7 OAKHILL CLOSE, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 1AP

Retention of double garage at the rear of garden

Claire Campbell-Best

20/8/23

I have reviewed the Mitigation Letter from Arbor-Eco Consultancy (17 July 2023). Ecology is only consulted when there is a planning application, so the comments are not being discriminatory, we are only responding to the situation with this planning application H/23/95031. If the owners of other properties which abut the SINC were to submit planning applications, they would receive the same advice that a 20 m SINC buffer is required, based on current guidance. We are not able to use historic guidelines, we can only apply the guidelines that are in effect now.

I maintain the ecology objection based on the lack of a 20 m SINC buffer, but should this retrospective application be approved, the following information must be considered.

As stated in the previous ecology response: Rain gutters should be installed and the runoff can go into a water butt and the overflow can go into to the surface water drainage system of the house if there is sufficient capacity, or if this is not possible, then into a separate soakaway.

Any rainwater collected to be used to water the garden is appropriate, but the overflow should not be directed towards the SINC, as this would potentially change the hydrology of the SINC.

The planting for pollinators proposed in the letter are appropriate for biodiversity enhancements.

The invasive plant Himalayan balsam has been reported in the land drain to the rear of the property (by Arbor-Eco Consultancy. If this is on the applicant's property it must be eradicated by the applicant. If it is also on any adjacent properties (including the SINC), the owners of those properties must also eradicate it. Himalayan balsam is a species of special concern under the Invasive Alien Species Order 2019 and must not be allowed to reproduce or spread into the wild.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist