

Additional Ecology response for F/23/95161 The Ageas Bowl - Boundary Lakes Golf Course, Botley Road, Southampton, SO30 3XH

Installation of an engineered berm and associated landscaping on the 5th hole to create visual and acoustic screening from the major roads running parallel to the site.

Summer Sharpe

11/9/23

I have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report (V 1.1 July 2023). The two unfinished sentences have now been completed.

I have reviewed the CEMP by IRUK Waste Planning & Consultancy Limited (July 2023). Ecological precautionary working measures are included in paragraphs 2.1.4.-2.1.12 of Part 2: Construction Site Management Plan. The precautionary working measures are satisfactory; however, reptiles must be assumed to be present due to suitable habitat and historic records nearby. Section 2.1.8 states *In the unlikely event that amphibians or reptiles are observed attempts will be made to catch the animal and relocate to a suitable adjacent habitat on the moian (main) golf course where reptiles are known to be present.*

A specific reptile receptor area must be identified before the start of works, shown on a plan and checked regularly by the ecological clerk of works to insure that suitable conditions are maintained throughout the construction phase.

Fuel storage and refuelling is addressed in 2.3.3 and silt protection is addressed 2.1.13.

I have not seen any information added to address these statements in my previous response:

*The planting areas should also include some night-flowering scented plants to attract moths as food for bats and*

*Herbicides and pesticides that are traditionally used in golf course management must be avoided in any area designed as wildlife habitat or biodiversity enhancement.*

If they have been included, please let me know where.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/7/23

I have reviewed the PEA report by Johns Associates Ltd. (April 2023), the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report by Johns Associates Ltd. (V 1.0, May 2023), the Landscape Masterplan by Johns Associates Ltd. (rev B, May 2023 in the EA and BNG report), the Flood and Drainage Appraisal by Sustain Environmental (April 2023), the proposed improvement works plans, and the Planning Statement.

**Ecology**

The proposal is requested to remediate the removal of screening vegetation due to highways works in 2020. The proposal will require shaping and importation of soils, removal of vegetation (other-neutral grassland and several broadleaved trees) but most of the existing trees will be retained. It would remediate the gap created in the perimeter vegetation. This would provide potential connectivity for dormice which have been recorded in a localised area of the wider Ageas Bowl and golf course site at on several surveys undertaken between 2007 and 2019.

There is potential habitat for bats, nesting birds, reptiles and hedgehogs in this area. The trees and scattered scrub which would be affected by this proposal were assessed as having negligible bat roost potential but would have nesting and foraging opportunities for birds. Reptiles are assumed present due to suitable habitat and historic records nearby. There is an active badger sett and foraging habitat on the wider site (3.2.7) but they have not been recorded on this part of the site. Other than the mature trees, the vegetation which would be affected by this proposal is not ecologically significant.

No further surveys will be required, however precautionary working methods to protect any protected species which could possibly be affected by the construction phase (badgers, bats, dormice, nesting birds, common reptiles, common amphibians and hedgehogs) must be followed. The non-licensable Method Statement for reptiles outlined in section 4.3.1 of the PEA report is satisfactory and can be conditioned.

The following precautions for nesting birds is written in section 4.3.3 of the report and can be conditioned. *To avoid direct impacts, tree felling will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season which runs from March to August inclusive. Alternatively, if clearance is undertaken during the nesting period, checks for evidence of nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required immediately prior to commencement of works. If any active nests are found these will be protected by an appropriate buffer zone until nesting is complete and all the chicks have fledged.* The buffer zone should be at least 5 m to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

Precautions for badgers are listed in 4.3.4. *Badger are likely to be in the wider landscape which may be injured should they enter deep excavations that are left open overnight. Therefore, any open excavations (if required) will be graded at one end or include a ramp to allow badgers (and/or other mammal species) to escape.*

Precautions for hedgehogs are given in section 4.3.5. *To reduce the risk of encountering and potentially harming hibernating hedgehogs, any clearance of scrub should be undertaken outside of the hibernation period. The two-stage clearance approach described above in Section 4.3.1 will make the development area unsuitable for hedgehogs and avoid the potential for adverse impacts to these species.*

The biodiversity enhancements listed in section 4.5 of the PEA report and shown in the Landscape Masterplan by Johns Associates Ltd (April and May 2023). are suitable, however enhancements for a diverse community of invertebrates must also be considered. Section 4.3.1 in the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report states that the deadwood from the three trees proposed to be removed will be retained along the site boundary to provide additional invertebrate, small

mammal, reptile and amphibian habitat. The planting areas should also include some night-flowering scented plants to attract moths as food for bats.

A Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan can be conditioned to provide detailed information on maintaining these features to provide the maximum benefits for wildlife. This must also include the habitat management information provided in Table 14 of the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report. Herbicides and pesticides that are traditionally used in golf course management must be avoided in any area designed as wildlife habitat or biodiversity enhancement.

Additional information on biodiversity enhancements is provided in the Post Development section (3.3.2) of the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report. A band of mixed scrub, six new trees and enhancement of the remaining other neutral grassland will provide an enhancement of +1.41 biodiversity units, equivalent to +41.8% enhancement.

A CEMP will be required and must include the precautionary working methods and supervision by an ecological clerk of works (ECOW) during site clearance and construction of the bund.

The Planning Statement states that soils will need to be imported to create the proposed bund. Care must be taken to ensure that no invasive species or pollutants are imported with this soil. Details of the source of the soil and any required checking and monitoring can be conditioned.

With the implementation of the proposed conditions, precautionary working methods and enhancements I am satisfied that there are no outstanding ecological issues for this proposal.

**Errors:** Although the intent is clear, there are two unfinished sentences in these reports. Section 3.2.8 of the PEA report (Other Mammals) has an unfinished sentence on page 17 (It is likely that a range of common small mammals including hedgehogs may utilise the Site for **commuting, foraging and potentially nesting, including within the...**).

In section 3.3.2 of the Ecological Appraisal and BNG report there is another unfinished sentence. *The remaining other neutral grassland will be enhanced from poor to moderate condition. **A band of mixed scrub will be ...** The three trees, adjacent to the golfing green, will be removed and an area of modified grassland lost to allow for creation of a golfing bunker.*

To avoid any confusion please could you provide the rest of these sentences in corrected reports.

### **Surface water drainage**

The Flood and Drainage Appraisal by Sustain Environmental (April 2023) states that drainage from this site would be to the northeast, towards the culverted section of the watercourse that drains from Telegraph Woods and eventually under the culverted section that passes under the M27. This is designated EA Main River and eventually runs into the River Hamble. The soil type is assumed to be loamy and clayey with impeded drainage (based on Cranfield University Soilscales website) but the appraisal notes that infiltration testing has not been completed in this area.

The creation of this bund is not expected to have any adverse drainage impacts or cut off any existing flow routes. The bund will be fully vegetated. The area of the proposed traditional golf bunker is proposed to have drainage trenches, a soakaway and perforated drainage pipes surrounded by aggregate, then covered with geotextile and sand. The results of the infiltration testing will be required to determine whether a soakaway is feasible in this area.

As this proposal would not create any additional surface water drainage due to impervious surfaces or any sources of pollution, I don't have any concerns for the operational phase at this time. During the construction phase there is the potential for sediment from the importation of soil and reprofiling work to drain into either the watercourse to the northeast or the surface water flow path on the southeastern site boundary. Fuel spillages could also occur during re-fuelling of equipment. Details of protective measures to prevent sediment and fuel pollution during construction must be included in the CEMP, which can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist