

Additional Ecology response for F/23/96353 CWM Aggregates 79 Mortimers Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 7BT

Extension to existing access.

Rachael Morris

6/12/23

I have reviewed the site photos sent by the applicant. It appears that the verge has been cleared of any mature hedgerow plants and there is a sparse regrowth of ruderal vegetation and grass growing on the verge. (Vegetation is flora, not fauna, which refers to animals). A closed board fence is also in place, possibly recently installed. I don't see any potential hedgerow habitat in the area proposed to widen the entrance way, although there is evidence that suitable habitat may have been removed in the past.

An ecological impact assessment is no longer required. Biodiversity enhancement to provide net gain can include planting a new native species hedgerow either inside or outside the fence and maintaining it for the benefit of wildlife. Details on enhancements can be conditioned. This webpage from the Woodland Trust may provide some helpful information ([Trimming and maintaining native hedges - Woodland Trust](#)).

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

5/12/23

In the absence of any ecological information provided by the applicant and because there are records of slow worms, grass snakes, bats, and stag beetles and because the site is in an amber great crested newt impact risk zone removal of this hedgerow could potentially result in impact to these species, as well as to nesting birds which might be using this area.

I had requested an ecological impact assessment to rule out the possibility of any impacts but I would review close up photos taken in good light of the area of hedgerow proposed to be removed. I need to be able to see the leaves of the plants in the photos (to verify that this is all bramble, or the stems if the leaves are no longer attached) and the area at the base of the hedgerow from the existing opening to the first building to the north of the proposed entrance. This will provide more information as to whether an ecological impact assessment is still required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

27/11/23

There are records of slow worms, grass snakes, bats, and stag beetles near this site. It is in an amber great crested newt impact risk zone. There is a hedgerow in the area which would be impacted by this proposal. The hedgerow is connected to a large area of deciduous woodland priority habitat (Hardings Copse and Scotland Copse) to the south of the site. Knowlehill Copse ancient woodland is located to the south of Scotland Copse.

An ecological impact assessment is required. This must also include an assessment of the hedgerow against the Hedgerows Regulations.

Since a hedgerow is a linear feature, only another linear feature such as a hedgerow would compensate for the loss of this hedgerow. Biodiversity net gain must also be provided.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist