

Ecology response 12 5 26 for F/26/100693 1 to 19 Cheping Gardens & 5 to 41 Mortimer Road, Botley, SO30 2FW

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Reinforcement and refurbishment of the existing retaining wall structure between the residential gardens. Proposal includes installing structural reinforcement (Geopins) into the existing structure, constructing a new Tobermore block retaining wall system directly in front of the existing wall with 1.1m high handrail on top and back filling the space between the two walls with concrete.

Clare Martin

12/5/26

I have reviewed the email from Ellis Belk Associates (May 2026) responding to the earlier ecology consultation response.

Some adverse ecological effects will be unavoidable however the safety of the residents and their properties is an over-riding concern.

I agree that the mitigation and compensation measures outlined in the EcIA are appropriate and must be adhered to. A CEMP and a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan can be conditioned. The following information must be included.

Mitigation and Compensation

- Works to be timed for when invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians are most likely to be active and able to escape;
- Pre-commencement ecological checks. A receptor area must be identified and agreed so that any animals found can be moved to a suitable and safe habitat.
- Supervision of certain works by a suitably qualified ecologist;
- Implementation of a Construction Environmental Mitigation Plan (CEMP);
- Precautionary working methods to minimise disturbance.

Biodiversity enhancements:

- Installation of bird boxes. Bird boxes should only be installed where they will be safe from predation by cats, not in full sun so they do not get too hot for young birds and protected from rain and winds. This wall faces south but the ideal aspect for bird boxes is facing north and east, so locating bird boxes within the wall is not appropriate. It may be more appropriate to install bird boxes within the gardens of the houses or in the wooded area adjacent to number 1, rather than built into the wall.
- Provision of a variety of insect habitat features within the wall. This should be recommended by the ecological consultant based on the types of insects likely to be present and their habitat requirements.
- Opportunities to improve connectivity for reptiles and hedgehogs at ground level where feasible.

- Landscape plants to be chosen for their ability to provide nectar, pollen, fruit and seeds for wildlife. It is not clear from the proposed plan where landscape planting would be located.

Lisa Malter
Ecologist