

Ecology response for F/26/101209 Bell tent glamping at Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, Southampton, SO31 5GA

Retrospective change of use from local community use (Use Class F2(c)) to caravan and camping (Sui Generis Use Class), to include retention of ancillary buildings comprising toilet and shower block, kitchen, storage shed, reception and staff accommodation.

Rebecca Altman

19/5/26

I have reviewed the General Site Layout document and the additional photos sent by email.

Fire and risk to woodland

Each campsite appears to have a fire pit. Where does the wood for these fires come from? I can see the signs asking campers to leave the wood in the forest, but is there an alternative source of firewood easily available?

I can see two fire extinguishers on a trolley next to the toilet and shower block. Are there any other fire extinguishers available on site? What are the provisions for checking that fires are properly extinguished before a campsite is vacated?

Is there a cooker in the kitchen or places for campers to bring their own portable stoves? Is there a fire extinguisher or fire blanket in this area?

Biodiversity enhancements

The photos supplied by email show a raised bed in front of the Bell Tent Glamping sign. There is a large amount of (invasive) pendulous sedge which is overwhelming the other plants. Pendulous sedge should be removed, and this area should be planted with a range of flowering plants to attract pollinators over a long flowering season. Native flowering plants are preferred in this ecologically sensitive location. Night flowering scented plants will attract nocturnal insects as food for bats. There are opportunities for additional raised beds or rain gardens next to the staff accommodation, the toilet block, and any/all of the permanent structures. The email response from the applicant states that they are planning on planting more hedgerow this winter and would like to introduce bat and owl boxes.

A biodiversity enhancements and maintenance plan (BEMP) can be conditioned.

Drainage

Information about drainage has not been provided. I can see a rainwater gutter and downspout on the staff accommodation static caravan but not on any of the other buildings. The permanent structures should have surface water drainage provision. Raised bed rain gardens would be a good way to provide filtration for surface water drainage and biodiversity enhancements together.

What is the foul drainage provision for the toilet and shower block and the staff accommodation?

Is there dish washing provision or any foul drainage in the kitchen shelter?

A drainage plan is required to show how surface and foul water drainage is managed on site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist