

Ecology response 26 5 26 for F/26/100881 Land adjacent to Pear Tree PH, Winchester Road, Boorley Green, Southampton, SO32 2DH

Erection of 6 no. dwellings, associated parking and creation of new access

Katie Lasham

26/5/26

I have reviewed the updated Proposed Access Site Plan and Proposed Site Plan (both rev B, May 2026). The existing hawthorn hedge and associated vegetation is now proposed to be retained along the front boundary which is appropriate. The grass verge will be smaller and will not accommodate parking. The post and rail fence along the front boundary has been removed from the plan. I am satisfied that the detailed plant specifications and soft landscaping management can be addressed by conditions.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

20/5/26

I have reviewed the amended plans, and the updated PEA, BNG letter (May 2026), the amended BNG metric (April 2026), the email of 11/5/26 describing the revised final plans and the Landscape officer's consultation responses.

The new proposed site access plan shows (from Winchester Road towards the houses) a grass verge, a 1.2 high timber post and rail fence, a new native tree planting and ecology area with 6 No. new trees.

The existing hedgerow and vegetation on the eastern boundary along Winchester Road are now proposed to be trimmed back with a grass verge along the road to support the visibility splays. I agree with the Landscape officer that this hedgerow would not be wide enough to be viable. It would also not provide sufficient shelter for wildlife if it was too narrow.

Possible solutions:

Is it possible to maintain the width of the eastern hedgerow (labelled NH1, NH2 and NH3 on the post development map) sufficiently by adding depth on the other side (ie. towards the site in part of the area labelled Ecology Area) by removing the timber post and rail fence? This would slightly reduce the area of other neutral grassland to the inside of the site but would provide a viable hedgerow rather than one that was too narrow.

Can the new proposed trees be included within the eastern hedgerow rather than being planted next to it?

Could additional native species be added to the hawthorn already there to create a mixed native species hedgerow with trees (as described for the other retained hedgerows)?

The new grass verge should be planted with a flowering grassland mixture and maintained to promote flowering as described in the Other Neutral Grassland section of the BNG letter (updated April 2026).

The BNG metric would need to be revised to include these changes and the number of biodiversity units required to be purchased would need adjustment.

The aerial photos of the site available on Google Maps (imagery 2026) show that the existing hedging only starts at the southern end of this property. Severing the proposed hedging to create space for the footpath into the Boorley Gardens site would not have an ecological impact because this hedge does not continue further south along Winchester Road. The width of the footpath can be easily crossed by small animals that would be using the hedge for shelter. The trees in the southeastern corner of the site on either side of the gap between NH2 and HWT2 can be maintained so that their canopies are close together to provide more shelter for arboreal species.

The footpath proposed to connect with the Boorley Gardens site would require removal of part of the hedgerow on the Boorley Gardens site, but again, this hedgerow ends at the corner of the Boorley Gardens site near the Pear Tree pub, so creation of the footpath in this location would create only a small gap towards the end of the continuous hedgerow. The positions of the trees to either side of the gap can be adjusted to allow their canopies to come together above the footpath.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist