

Ecology response for F/26/101341 BOORLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAIRN ROAD,
BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2SH

Modular Classroom building for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), with
associated landscaping

Rebecca Altman

1/6/26

Ecology

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, dormice, and badgers nearby.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) by Vesper Conservation and Ecology Ltd (May 2026). The report concluded that *The habitats present on site are of low ecological value, and the site has been assessed as having negligible potential to support protected species, including bats, amphibians, reptiles and badgers. Nesting birds may utilise surrounding hedgerows and trees, and a precautionary approach is therefore required during construction.*

The precautionary construction phase measures listed in section 6.6 are appropriate and must be implemented. As recommended in the report, an Ecological Construction Method Statement (ECMS) can be conditioned.

The ecological enhancements recommended in section 6.9 are appropriate and must be implemented. They can be shown on a final soft landscape plan which can be conditioned or on a separate ecological enhancements plan.

A lighting plan is not required as this facility is not likely to be used at night during the active bat season.

Biodiversity Net Gain

I have reviewed the Biodiversity Gain Plan (no author or date).

The site baseline has been assessed as 0.10 habitat units of modified grassland in poor condition. With the habitat creation proposals will be able to achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain on site.

Mycelia software reported the following error message: For on-site *area habitats*, the total area of lost habitat was found to be 0.033 ha, and the total area of created habitat was found to be 0.017 ha. These areas should be equal.

The BNG proposal is to create 0.041 km of native hedgerow in moderate condition (0.14 BU), an urban tree in moderate condition (0.1 BU) and 0.002 ha of mixed scrub (0.017 BU). Part of the modified grassland would be retained (0.017 ha, 0.34 BU). The native hedgerow (0.066 ha, 0.15 BU) is listed as linear habitat by the metric.

Area habitat and linear habitat are not interchangeable in the metric, and the hedgerow would be planted on land which was previously modified grassland area habitat which is why Mycelia is showing this error message. This metric error is acceptable in this specific case.

The Landscape Officer has asked for a landscape strategy plan and some changes such as some smaller fruit or flowering trees. The floor plan and external areas plan shows five separate areas of hedgerow screen planting and 20 m² of heathland mixed scrub planting at the northern site boundary.

The habitat delivery and management directions in section 7 are appropriate and must be implemented.

In this case and due to the low distinctiveness of the habitats, biodiversity net gain can be secured for 30 years by condition. Monitoring reports are not required.

Surface water drainage

A surface water drainage strategy is required. If a soakaway is proposed, infiltration test results must be submitted to demonstrate that this is feasible.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist