

Ecology response for DC/26/101704 BOORLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAIRN ROAD, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2SH

Discharge of conditions 3 (Construction Environmental Management Plan), 5 (Hard and Soft Landscaping) and 6 (Boundary Fencing Detail) from application F/26/101341 for 'Modular Classroom building for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), with associated landscaping'

Rachael Morris

17/7/26

Condition 3

I have reviewed the CEMP by ACM Architects (June 2026). Condition 3 CEMP can now be discharged.

Condition 5 Hard and Soft Landscaping

I have reviewed the Soft Landscape, Ecological Enhancement and Biodiversity Planting Specification by ACM Architects (June 2026).

Section 7 SEND Landscape Design Principles, Low Risk Species Selection states that species have been screened to avoid toxic berries, however Yew *Taxus baccata* has been recommended in the hedgerow planting schedule. Yew has fleshy red arils which are not toxic, but the seeds inside them are highly poisonous. Some varieties of *Photina* are also toxic if the leaves are chewed.

Yew and Photina should not be used in this planting scheme due to the possibility that they could be eaten by children.

In the Heathland Habitat Mix Schedule, common gorse *Ulex europaeus* has been recommended in the heathland scrub along the northern boundary. Section 7 states that species have been screened to avoid thorn-bearing plants adjacent circulation routes. Gorse is extremely thorny. It is difficult to see where gorse would be located with respect to circulation routes, but the mixed scrub planting would be within an area used by students. The seeds of gorse are easily spread by birds, so if gorse is planted on site, it is likely that seedlings could establish in other areas. If gorse is kept in the planting scheme, the maintenance schedule must include prompt removal of gorse seedlings in student areas.

Condition 6 Boundary fencing

CEMP 11 states that permanent fencing will be RAL 6005 moss green. In other recent planning applications, the Landscape officer has commented that grey fencing is less intrusive than green. I would agree with the Landscape officer.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist