

Ecology response 31 8 26 for F/26/100952 AIR TRAINING CORPS, TURNPIKE PAVILLION, TURNPIKE WAY, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4QR

New fire escape ramp and path to existing cadet centre and land re-profiling (re-submission of planning permission F/22/93363)

Clare Martin

31/8/26

I have reviewed the updated Statutory Metric (V2) which has been based on a site area of 0.06 ha. This demonstrates an onsite biodiversity net gain of 10.03% and no metric errors. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment by South Downs Ecology (V2, July 2026) states that this can be achieved by planting 4 small new trees and enhancement of 0.023 ha of modified grassland in poor condition to moderate condition by re-seeding it with a shade tolerant flowering lawn seed mixture.

This is acceptable and can be secured for 30 years by condition.

Section 6 of the report states that an alternative to enhancing the southern grassland would be to reinstate the non-shaded northern modified grassland G4-1 (with a flowering lawn mix) within 2 years of commencement of works. This can also be done as an ecological enhancement in accord with DM 11 for additional ecological benefit.

Recommended condition:

No development shall be carried out until a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been submitted and approved in writing by the LPA. This plan shall include details of any habitat to be created, re-instated, enhanced and retained on site for 30 years; details and extent of new planting; details of maintenance regime and management responsibilities; details of proposed species enhancements. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that 10% biodiversity net gain is achieved on site and maintained for 30 years in accordance with the Environment Act 2021.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/3/26

Redistributing the excavated spoil must be done under the guidance of the tree officer

The site area is given as 640 sq metres on the application form. The applicant is claiming the de minimis exemption from 10% biodiversity net gain because the footpath area is below 25 sq metres. The habitat affected must also include the area where the spoil is proposed to be spread, so the application would not be exempt due to the de minimis exemption.

I have reviewed the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment by South Downs Ecology (January 2026). There are a few inconsistencies. I have emailed the ecological consultant for clarification of the measurement of the site area and the number of trees proposed.

Please reconsult ecology when this information has been submitted.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist