

Additional ecology response for F/23/95507 Willow Bee, Allington Lane, Eastleigh, SO30 3HP

Replacement entrance gate, hardstanding, and frontage fence (Retrospective).

Rachael Morris

27/9/23

I have reviewed the BEMP by Ecosupport (September 2023). The pre- and post clearance habitat potential and proposed compensation for each species is summarised in the table below.

Enhancements have

Species	Pre-clearance potential	Post clearance potential	Proposed compensation/enhancements
Bats- foraging and commuting	moderate	low	4 bat boxes
Birds- nesting and breeding	high	moderate	4 nest boxes
Common reptiles	moderate	low	2 hibernacula
Great crested newts-terrestrial	low	low	Small pond planted with marginal aquatic mix
Dormice	low/unlikely	very low	
Badgers-foraging, commuting	moderate	moderate	
Badgers- active setts	potential	none present on site	
Hedgehogs- foraging, sheltering, and commuting	moderate	moderate	2 hedgehog homes
General habitat loss			Wildflower grassland, scrub and woodland planting

Section 3.5.2 of the report has a few editing errors. I think it was meant to read: *can still hold limited potential for terrestrial **great crested newts**. And Taking the above into account the site will be considered to hold low potential for **terrestrial great crested newts**.*

A management plan and a safeguarding condition for bat and bird boxes has been proposed but not elaborated upon in this document. Given the scale of habitat loss and the extensive compensation and enhancements needed, I recommend that if this application were to be approved, a 5-year monitoring plan would need to be conditioned and documentation of appropriate management, as recommended in the BEMP, will need to be provided.

The planned usage of the site has still not been clarified. This may also change the level of impact on the proposed replacement habitats.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

23/8/23

I have reviewed the site photos and aerial photos from Google maps (2023 imagery) and Google earth (2000 to the present). The Google maps street view photo of the site from Allington Lane (March 2023) shows a line of scrub has been removed from between two large trees and a large green tank at the site entrance.

The site is within an amber great crested newt impact risk zone with records of great crested newts approximately 550 m to the north and to the northwest. From the photos the habitat which was cleared could have supported amphibians such as great crested newts, reptiles, nesting birds and hedgehogs.

From the Gates and Fencing Proposed plan by Solent Design (Rev B June 2023) it is not clear whether the closed board timber fence is just at the front of the site or continues all the way around the property. There are two rectangles at on the northern side of the area shown as hardstanding which have not been labelled on the plan.

The lamp post and red post box shown in the site photos give the site a residential appearance.

The site entrance has been cleared of vegetation and the surface appears to have been compacted. There is a black surface water drainage pipe/culvert which has been laid across and under the site entrance and closed board fencing with solid (concrete) base boards has been constructed at the entrance and along the Allington Lane road frontage.

A net loss of biodiversity has occurred on site due to the removal of vegetation. This is contrary to local and national policies (DM 1 and the NPPF) which require biodiversity net gain. A biodiversity enhancement and management plan (BMEP) is required. This must show how biodiversity net gain will be achieved on site. The must compensate for the loss of habitat and provide biodiversity enhancements to ensure net gain.

A surface water drainage plan is required.

The closed board fence must have gaps in the base boards (15 x 15 cm minimum) where small mammals such as hedgehogs can move freely across the property.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist