

Ecology response amended for F/24/97023 WOODSIDE PARK, WOODSIDE ROAD, EASTLEIGH

Relocation of existing cycle shed and addition of hard landscaping (total area of proposed development 145sqm)

Rachael Morris

27/3/24

I have reviewed the site photos. I can see the position of the current bike shed and the vegetated area, which could use some enhancement. What is the reasoning for removing a vegetated area and replacing it with hard standing?

The proposed Hard Landscaping plan has different coloured areas but no key to the colours. The numbers show a variety of paving types, presumably as a demonstration for customers. Items numbered 29 and 30 are listed as brick planters but I don't see them on the diagram.

Paving this area or covering it with gravel would result in a net loss of biodiversity which is against local and national policy. There is an area shown as plain gravel.

I have no objection to moving or enlarging the cycle parking area, but an area planted with a variety of flowering plants for pollinators and maintained in good condition would be required as mitigation for loss of the original vegetated area.

A gravel garden with drought resistant plants could be designed and implemented, or a rain garden using surface water drainage from the roof are two possible options. If there is a reason for this area to be paved with gravel, then a green wall could be added to the building as an alternative planting area.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

25/3/24

The latest Google maps aerial photo of the site does not correspond with the street view photo. I don't see a cycle shed in either photo. Please provide current photos of the cycle shed and the area proposed to be hard landscaped. If this is a retrospective application, then only biodiversity enhancements are recommended. There are records of bats and nesting swifts in the area, however this site does not look appropriate for enhancements for either of these species.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist