

Ecology response amended 24/4/24 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

2/4/24

I have reviewed the additional landscaping photos and the amended proposed hard landscaping plan. The addition of species rich lawn mixture is appropriate as a biodiversity enhancement as long as the mowing regime allows the flowering species to flower and set seed before being cut. An informational sign could be used to explain to customers why this might look "untidy" but is being done to benefit pollinating insects and seed eating birds. The addition of raised beds planted with flowering plants to attract pollinators is very welcome. I have provided some advice about species to use as an alternative to box and to supplement *Echinacea*.

Rosemary, (on RHS website *Salvia rosmarinus*, other websites *Rosmarina officinalis*), is an easy to care for plant with a long flowering season and shrubby evergreen foliage. Mine is flowering prolifically now and with proper pruning will flower again in autumn. *Echinacea purpurea* is a perennial which will flower in late summer and autumn but the leaves die back in winter so will leave an empty spot in the raised bed. Box *Buxus sempervirens* is not doing very well in the UK right now, with box blight causing plant failures ([Box: problems / RHS Gardening](#)). Alternatives to box recommended by the RHS include varieties of Wilson's honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*, which can also be clipped into shapes ([Graham Rice's new plants blog: Excellent new alternatives to box / RHS Gardening](#)) and will flower if pruned at the right times. There are different species of heather which can provide a long flowering season. Flowering currant, hebe, lavender, and salvia are all easy to care for and provide reliable flowers. Spring and autumn flowering bulbs could also be added to these raised beds to make them an attractive feature for pollinators and customers.

The other landscaped areas in the photos supplied could be enhanced with wildflower plug plants or additional flowering shrubs.

I have no further ecology objections.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

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