

RM/24/97106 (partial discharge) Biodiversity Enhancement Zone

for O/18/83698 Land north and east of Winchester Street, Botley

Ecology Comments 23.4.24

Landscape Drawings 251898-ARP-XX-XX-DR-L-0001 & 0002

Planting Schedule and Outline Landscape Specification 251898- ARP-XX-XX-DR-L-0003

Landscape cross-sections drawings 251898-ARP-XX-XX-DR-L-0004

LEMP 251898-ARP-XX-XX-RP-L-0001

Planning, Design and Access Statement 251898-ARP-XX-XX-RP-PL-0001

I have few comments to make as the proposals include a variety of ecologically valuable habitats which have been thoroughly considered. The comments/ queries I do have are below.

Size of the vehicular access strip:

My main query relates to the size of the vehicular access strip which is on average 10 metres wide and takes up a significant proportion (potentially over a third) of the 1.1Ha Biodiversity Enhancement Zone (BEZ) which was allocated for biodiversity enhancements at outline. The habitat of the access strip will be of limited biodiversity value and therefore the effective area of the BEZ will be significantly reduced in size, potentially to approximately 0.7Ha.

It is not clear as to why this access strip is proposed to be so wide where usually vehicular access requires a 2-3m maximum width. If the access width was reduced in size, then a larger area of biodiverse habitats similar to those proposed in the northern part of the BEZ, could be created which would be more in accordance with the parameter plans approved at outline.

Omission of features from the landscape plans:

- The eastern access point into the BEZ from the balancing pond is not shown. The western access point is shown.
- The four wood piles and one/ two grass piles have not been indicated on the plan. This may be a deliberate omission to allow flexibility to determine the optimal positioning of these features during delivery or it could be unintentional.

Ongoing maintenance:

I presume HCC will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance but I don't think this has been explicitly stated.

Sarah Boyd, Ecologist