

Planning Department
Eastleigh Borough Council

Our Ref: E-486-AD
Your Ref: F/24/97188
Email: nikki@southernplanning.co.uk
Date: 24.04.24

Dear Lisa Malter

F/24/97188 - Unit H, George Curl way, Eastleigh

Thank you for your comments on the above submitted planning application. I hope I have addressed them satisfactorily below however please do contact me if there are further issues and I will be happy to discuss further.

Having looked at the amended block plan it is not clear to me where the discrepancy lies. The only vegetation to be lost has been mapped (22m of ornamental hedgerow) and other than this section no further changes are proposed to the existing fencing along the eastern boundary. I would be grateful for further clarification to address this concern.

The building has now been mapped however the metric only goes to UKHabs level 4 and as such there is no code for 'building' in the metric so I cannot alter this as requested (See attached).

I have also labelled the two hedgerows, so they correlate with the hedgerows indicated in the metric and updated the metric to reflect the 0.02km loss which was an oversight so apologies for this. The metric now indicates a 122.8% BNG in hedgerow units and is resubmitted.

UKHabs defines h2b Non-native and ornamental hedgerow as 'A hedgerow with >20% canopy cover of UK non-native woody species'. Within the definition there is scope for native species. On site there are 2 small hedgerow trees within the section on the eastern boundary. These are a goat willow and silver birch. The definition of hedgerows (h2) in definition/species states 'Range from those dominated by two or three woody species through to species rich mixes of shrubs, **trees** and ground flora of ancient hedgerows'[emphasis added]. I also consulted the metric user guide (2024) which confirms that medium and large trees within a hedgerow should be recorded as individual trees however this does not apply to small trees such as those on site and defined by the tree size class table within the guidance.

The planting on the south side of the building labelled as (secondary UKHabs code) 847 I have not identified it as a hedgerow. The planting was imposed to provide ornamental visual interest to the site at a low level to not interfere with openings along this elevation of the building. As I hope is illustrated in the picture below each shrub or group of shrubs is maintained individually with gaps purposely

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maintained between the shrubs to not to allow it to grow into a 'shrubby' hedgerow as per the definition of h2 in UKHabs. I am however happy to meet on site to discuss further if this would help.



The hedgerow proposed will be new and none of the existing shrubs are to be retained – most of which are non-native and there are also invasive species. There will be no habitat left to enhance so it seems appropriate to me that this is classed as a new hedgerow and that is why tab B.2 has been used.

All planting has been considered in reference to 'Civil Aviation Authority (2017). Wildlife hazard management at aerodrome' as referenced in the submitted BNG report and referenced at para 7.2 in relation to habitat improvements on site. The existing habitat already provides opportunities for feeding and nesting birds and the alterations are designed to be a meaningful improvement for biodiversity as required. No additional improvements adjacent to the flight areas are proposed.

The comments regarding Urban block I and removal of certain species are appreciated and will be passed to the client. These can be dealt with by means of condition.

Please let me know if there are any further concerns and I would reiterate that should further changes be considered necessary I would be happy to meet on site to go through these.

Yours Sincerely

Nichola Windebank,
Ecologist

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