

Bishopstoke Parish Council
Parish Office Riverside
Bishopstoke
Hampshire
SO50 6LQ

29/05/2024

Attn: Bishopstoke Parish Council and Mr David Wheal

Dear Mr Wheal

Environmental Management Statement (EMS) for the relocation of Bishopstoke War Memorial (including a new wall for memorial plaques, reinstatement of footpath and associated works) to Old St Mary's Churchyard, Church Road, Bishopstoke, SO50 6LR (Application No. F/23/95735)

This letter contains the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Precautionary working measures for water voles, bats, and stag beetles
3. Precautionary working measures to prevent pollution (such as sediment and fuel) from entering the Itchen Navigation Canal
4. Figures
 - Figure 4.1 Aerial photograph of site
 - Figure 4.2 Site plan showing location of materials and machinery storage and protective fencing
 - Figure 4.2 Stag beetle larvae identification and loggery design
5. Conclusion

1. Introduction

The existing war memorial was in the grounds of the Bishopstoke Memorial Hall. Under the granted planning permission (F/23/95735), it will be moved to a new site within the grounds of Old St Mary's Church. All site work and reporting has been completed by a suitably qualified ecologist (MIEEM).

The existing site is on the north side of Church Road while the new site is further up the road on a corner plot with Church Road on the east boundary and Oak Bank Road on the north boundary. Both the new and old sites are on the west side of Bishopstoke.

The River Itchen Navigation Canal is on the opposite side of the road from the existing site and on the western boundary of the new site.

This Environmental Management Statement has been prepared to allow the discharge of the following condition:

“No site clearance, groundwork or development shall commence until an Environmental Method Statement has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The statement shall include methods to prevent pollution (such as sediment and fuel) from entering the Itchen Navigational Canal and precautionary working methods to deal with stag beetles, bats, and water voles. The work shall only take place in accordance with the approved environmental method statement.”

The purpose of this statement is to ensure that construction activities do not adversely affect the Itchen Navigation Canal, bats, stag beetles, and water vole.

The works include the following:

- relocation of Bishopstoke War Memorial.
- construction of a new wall for memorial plaques;
- upgrade of existing footpath; and
- creation of new footpath past the church remains and connecting to an existing path on the south side of the graveyard.

It should be noted that there are certain flood risk activities that may require an environmental permit. Before works begin, the Environment Agency should be contacted with details of the project in order to confirm whether or not the proposed activities are regulated due to being close to a main river/watercourse.

The statement details the measures to be undertaken to mitigate and manage the works.

2. Precautionary working measures for water voles, bats, and stag beetles

Given the scope of the works, it is not thought an Ecological Clerk-of-Works (ECoW) is required for the duration of the works. However, a responsible site manager must be tasked with implementing the contents of this Environmental Management Statement (EMS) and have ecological advice to hand when needed. An ECoW will be required for any deviations from this EMS.

As the Itchen Navigation Canal is close, working measures to avoid causing an adverse impact on species including water voles, bats and stag beetles are described below.

The Itchen Navigation Canal is on the western boundary of the Old St Mary’s Church graveyard whereas the location of new memorial and paths are close to the trees along the eastern boundary. Therefore, it is unlikely that water voles using the navigation will be directly impacted as the grassland is kept mown short and the work will not impact the bank. However, they may be subject to indirect impacts from noise as well as dust and fuel from machinery contacting the memorial and path. Standard good working practices should be undertaken to prevent noise disturbance to water voles such as using machinery with noise control measures and complying with any restrictions on operating hours that have been set out in the planning consent. These are continued and detailed in *Section 3* below.

During the construction phase, any trenches or excavations must be filled on the same day as excavation where possible to prevent animals falling in. Where this is not possible, they will be covered overnight with ply/ OSB sheets with damp sand used to fill any gaps. Mammal ladders can be installed for larger excavations (*e.g.* rough planks securely placed at an angle to allow safe egress).

As a precaution, to avoid direct impacts, the working area will be fenced with Hera fencing (or similar) to prevent machinery and/ or personnel getting close to the bank of the Itchen Navigation Canal (see *Figure 2*).

Due to the mature trees and nearby buildings with bat roost suitability, it is likely that the Old St Mary's Church graveyard will be used by commuting and/ or foraging bats. Therefore, no works will take place in the hours of darkness or under artificial lighting. In addition, there should be no lighting of the memorial at nighttime.

The new location of the memorial and the location of the new path is currently short mown grassland with no tree stumps or logs present (that could be used by stag beetles). In the event that any tree stumps or large areas of buried dead wood are found during works, work will pause until an ecologist can inspect them. This will involve the ecologist checking the deadwood and surrounding soil for live or dead stag beetles, eggs or larvae, the latter of which can be found inside dead and rotting wood as well as underground in the soil around said wood. Stag beetles are around 8cm, with a smooth deep brown exoskeleton and visible mandibles and the larvae are cream with a brown head and curved elongated body (see *Appendix 1* for stag beetle larvae identification). Where possible, and regardless of whether it contains evidence of stag beetles, the deadwood will be carefully relocated under either the trees on the east boundary or the trees at the eastern end of Oakbank Road to create a new stag beetle loggery habitat (see *Appendix 2*). If found, larvae will be relocated to the new loggery and placed just underground and covered loosely with soil.

3. Precautionary working measures to prevent pollution (such as sediment and fuel) from entering the Itchen Navigation Canal

Due to the close proximity of the Itchen Navigation Canal, the measures below will be implemented in order to avoid any direct impacts on the watercourse during construction. The use of machinery and certain materials on site can pose a risk to the ecology of the watercourse if not regulated. Construction workers on site must have contact details of the local authority and fire service must any spillage become uncontrollable at the source and/or pose a significant risk. Regardless, any spillages must be reported to the Eastleigh Environmental Health department. The following measures will be followed as standard good working practices to not only prevent ecological damage to the Itchen Navigation Canal but also to the environment surrounding the site:

- All machinery and piles of building materials, such as cement, sand, and other powders, will be covered securely and regularly inspected for spillages. They will be stored within the working area immediately adjacent on Oakbank Road, as far away from the watercourses as possible (see *Figure 2*).
- Any skips or trucks loaded with construction materials will be covered, and to prevent spread of materials in high winds, they can be dampened down with fine water sprays.
- To prevent the spread of materials such as dust, the working area will be fenced with Heras fencing or similar and this will be covered with material, such as fine mesh screening, on the western and southern sides (nearest the Itchen Navigation Canal) to catch and contain dust at the source (see *Figure 2*). Dust can also be controlled by using fine water sprays to dampen down the site and by limiting movement of dust-producing material, especially during high winds. If activities are to take place that will likely cause a significant amount of dust, such as cutting stones, then a stream of water can be made nearby to reduce the spread of dust.
- Sandbags will be available as they can be used to trap spillages on site by lining them underneath the fencing on the western and southern sides (nearest the Itchen Navigation Canal).
- Spill kits must be available on site at all times to contain any spillages as close to the source as possible. Securely containing and monitoring any toxic substances on site can be effective in preventing any spills and possible site contamination.

- Non-toxic paints, solvents and other non-hazardous materials will be used wherever possible.
- All drains on and adjacent to the site will be covered up and protected, especially surface water drains that may spill into the Itchen Navigation Canal.
- Any vehicles leaving the site will have their wheels hosed down prior to leaving to prevent muddy track-out and any vehicles or machinery that needs to be cleaned on site, such as cement mixers, will follow the next bullet point.
- Any wastewater generated from construction and clearing will be collected using small portable containers or solvents and stored in settlement tanks. The liquid will be screened, the clean water discharged, and the remaining sludge will be disposed of correctly, according to local environmental regulations (see [Environmental Information Regulations 2004](#)).
- Low sulphur diesel oil will be used in all vehicle and equipment engines, along with up-to-date particulate filters and catalytic converters (where appropriate).
- No material will be burnt on site.
- No vehicles or machinery will be refuelled on on-site.
- Noise pollution will be minimised. This will be through careful handling of materials and using quiet power tools, equipment and generators.

4. Figures

Figure 4.1. Aerial photograph showing the existing location of the War Memorial and the new location.

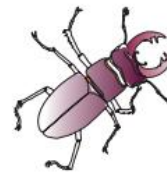


Figure 4.2. Site plan showing location of materials and machinery storage and protective fencing



Figure 4.3 Stag beetle larvae identification and loggery design

Larval identification



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endangered
species

Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

A fully-grown stag beetle larva can be up to 8cm long. They have an orange head and legs and brown jaws. They are quite chunky, and the content of their guts can sometimes be seen through the skin in the lower half, giving the appearance of a blackish patch along the back. This is particularly visible in smaller larvae, which have less fat.

They are nearly always found below ground and can be up to 50cm down. Placed on the ground they take up a C shape.



Deborah Harvey

How to make a log pile

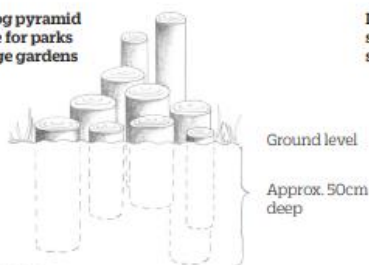
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species

- Log pyramids can be built at any time of year
- Use wood from any broadleaved tree
- The logs should be at least the thickness of an adults arm
- Site the logs in partial shade if possible to prevent them drying out
- Partially bury the logs in the soil so that they don't dry out
- Allow plants to grow over the log pyramid to retain moisture and provide shade

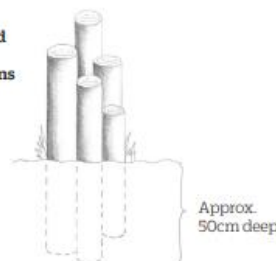


Your log pile will also benefit a range of other species including fungi, dead wood invertebrates and the animals that feed on them. It will be a great place for foraging small mammals, basking reptiles and potentially solitary bees.

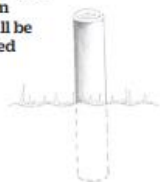
**Large log pyramid
suitable for parks
and large gardens**



**Log pyramid
suitable for
small gardens**



**Or, if space is
limited, a single
log on or in
the soil will be
appreciated**



More tips for stag beetle friendly gardening

- Leave tree stumps in place if possible; they can become garden features with plants growing over them
- Try not to use pesticides
- Keep a lid on your water butt as stag beetles are known to fall in and drown
- Avoid using polythene sheeting to control weeds. Newly emerging stag beetles can get trapped beneath it in spring and die
- If you find larvae in the bottom of rotten fence posts and need to move them, dig a hole elsewhere in your garden and put them in together with some of the rotting wood from the original site. Cover loosely with soil

Images: Ross Brown, Steve Heywood

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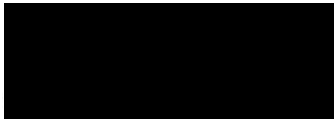
5. Conclusion

The measures outlined in this document will be implemented to ensure there are no impacts on the local ecology.

Bishopstoke Parish Council is committed to working closely with Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd and the contractor to ensure the successful execution of these environmental measures.

If you have any questions I would be pleased to advise.

Yours sincerely,



John Poland CEnv MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist

For and on behalf of HAMPSHIRE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD