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Daedalus Park
Daedalus Drive
Lee on the Solent
PO13 9FX

25th July 2024

RE: Response to 11/6/24 Ecology Comments for the Land Adjoining 4 Brookfield, Providence Hill, Bursledon

This letter serves to respond to the ecology comments received from Eastleigh Borough Council for the Land Adjoining 4 Brookfield, Providence Hill, Bursledon on the 11th June 2024. Amended versions of the ecology input for the Construction Environmental Management Plan as well as the Ecological Impact Assessment and BNG Assessment, Management and Monitoring Report have been produced to resolve the majority of the comments. However, responses to any remaining matters have been outlined below.

Mixed scrub habitat is proposed to be created with native shrub planting around the main care home (NS1, NS2 and NS6 in the metric). I think it will be problematic to maintain this habitat for the benefit of biodiversity (such as cutting on a 3-year cycle as stated in section 5.9.2 Hedgerow Management) due to their locations next to the care home and car park, therefore their biodiversity value may be reduced.

Parcels NS1, NS2 and NS6 are considered to form mixed scrub habitat rather than hedgerow and will therefore be managed as per the recommendations within Section 5.2 of the BNG Assessment, Management and Monitoring Plan rather than section 5.9.2 as referred to in the above comment. Under this management, annual cutting is permitted as needed to ensure the area does not become overgrown which should avoid any conflict with the care home or car park. With regard to the biodiversity value of the scrub, these parcels have been targeted to achieve 'moderate' condition, meeting Criteria A, B and C of the mixed scrub condition assessment sheet only. The below points re-iterate what these criteria are and build on how they will be met based on the management recommendations within Section 5.2 of the BNG Assessment, Management and Monitoring Plan:

- Criterion A
 - Requirements: 80% of scrub must be native with at least 3 woody species and no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover

- Actions: Only native species will be planted with at least 3 woody native species and no single species dominant.
- Criterion B
 - Requirements: Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature shrubs are all present.
 - Actions: Different areas of scrub will be cut back / thinned on rotation with some specimens left to develop into mature shrubs and areas cleared to allow seedlings to establish.
- Criterion C
 - Requirements: There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.
 - Actions: Weeding around the base of the shrubs will be undertaken annually as required and removal of invasive species will be undertaken as necessary should any establish within these parcels.

The above noted requirements are the only criteria that these scrub parcels must meet in order to achieve the targeted biodiversity value and it is considered that sufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate that this is achievable.

The description of a habitat to be created, H6, is native hedgerow with trees adding to enhanced H2 northern boundary. According to the Post Development Layout (BNG) H2 and H6 are on the eastern boundary not the northern boundary.

I cannot find any section within the BNG Assessment, Management and Monitoring Plan (Ecosupport Ltd., 2024b) that mentions H2 or H6 being on the northern boundary. I consistently refer to them as being located on the eastern boundary as per the Post-Development Layout.

Kind regards,

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