Ecology response 18 10 24 for DC/24/97979 71 HIGH STREET, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2ES

Discharge of conditions 3 (construction statement), 4 (foul and surface water drainage), 10 (imported soils), 12 (landscape scheme), 13 (noise and air pollution), and 17 (external materials) from application F/23/96117 for 'Proposed 3 bedroom two storey detached dwelling with associated parking and access alterations, following removal of existing outbuildings'.

Rachael Morris

18/10/24

I have reviewed the updated Landscape Plan (Rev B, 15.10.24). All of the previous recommendations have been shown on the plan. I am satisfied that Condition 12 can now be discharged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

9/10/24

I have reviewed the Construction Method Statement by Studio Fifty Four (V3, 24.9.24). Section 8 has now been amended as requested and Condition 3 can now be discharged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

24/9/24

Condition 3

I have reviewed the Construction Method Statement by Studio Fifty Four (V2, no date). Section 8 Protecting Hedgehogs and Amphibians has been added. It must be amended to state that in the unlikely event that great crested newts are found, all work must stop, and Natural England must be called for advice, as mentioned in the ecology response for F/23/96117 on 17/10/24.

Condition 12

I have reviewed the Landscape Scheme by Studio Fifty Four (no date). It is extremely helpful to provide dates all reports and plans so that it is clear which are the most recent versions.

The following information was provided to the applicant in the ecology responses to the original application, but this may not have been shared with Studio Fifty Four who are involved with the discharge of conditions application but may not have been involved with the original application.

Hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) must be included in the baseboards of any closed board fences to allow the free passage of small mammals through the garden, as stated in the ecology response for F/23/96117 on 17/10/24.

As recommended in the ecology response for F/23/96117 on 17/10/24, bat box and a swift nest box should be built into the house and their locations in the recommended locations, must be shown on the plan. Flowering native species hedges must replace the hedges lost to the development. The response of 4/1/24 states that a *native thorn-less mixed hedge would be an appropriate replacement for the privet hedge to be removed. It should be managed to retain flowers and fruit for wildlife. Additional planting for pollinators would further enhance biodiversity of the garden.* Continuous green infrastructure is required around the perimeter of the gardens to provide cover for small animals moving through the garden, birds and bats to forage, and resources for pollinating insects. This landscape plan shows bare fences and lawn coming up to the fence except in a few areas where plants are shown clustered together.

It is important that the plant mix has a long flowering season to attract pollinators as food for bats and birds. This should include night scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats. A grass lawn without flowering plants is not beneficial to wildlife.

This information was provided in the original application with additions in bold.

Biodiversity enhancements (ie.an **improvement** to biodiversity) will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building. **I expect to see these built into the proposed house unless there is a very strong reason for externally mounted boxes. The locations must be shown on an elevation plan.**

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. (https://www.bats.org.uk › our-work › putting-up-your-box)

Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight. (https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm)

Additional information is available at:

https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31, planting for bats

https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators

https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes

https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting

https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/

https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm

https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

https://ptes.org/my-garden/

https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

16/9/24

Condition 3

I have reviewed the Construction Method Statement by Studio Fifty Four (no date). It contains everything listed in condition 3 except for (*j) Precautionary working methods (to protect hedgehogs and amphibians)*. This information is required before Condition 3 can be discharged.

Condition 4

The SuDSmart Plus report by GeoSmart Information (no date) is appropriate and can be implemented. High ground water makes the infiltration potential low, so lined permeable paving and rainwater harvesting are proposed before discharge to the public surface water sewer. Exceedance flows would be towards the garden, which due to the high ground water could result in a poorly drained garden. Using rain garden techniques for planting, incorporating gravel or grit into the soil and using wet-tolerant plants will help absorb any additional water from exceedance flows. Additional information is available at www.rhs.org.uk/garden-features/rain-gardens .

Condition 12

A landscaping scheme with biodiversity enhancements has not yet been submitted. This is required before Condition 12 can be discharged.

12 Prior to first occupation a landscaping scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall cover all hard and soft landscaping (including boundary treatments (which shall not exceed 0.6m where fronting High Street), and

biodiversity enhancements) and shall provide details of timings for all landscaping and any future maintenance.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist