Ecology response for F/24/98391 MACKOY STADIUM, VT SPORTS GROUND, PORTSMOUTH ROAD, BURSLEDON, SO19 9PW

Retrospective application for a Swale, Gravel Car Park and Semi Permanent Marque.

Rachael Morris

5/11/24

The applicant's architect has provided the following information along with a statutory biodiversity metric for the site. As noted in item 8 on the Local Validation List (February 2024) the metric is not a stand-alone document but meant to be provided as part of a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy document, including plans of the site pre and post development (and of any areas on which off-site mitigation or compensation is proposed).

This application is for

- An area of land that has historically been used for car parking which has now had a change of surface material to make the space more useable,
- A new swale to deal with the water run-off from the football pitch,
- A new concrete base to house the semi—permanent marque.

According to the metric, this application involves a loss of 0.59 on site habitat units. An off-site area of 0.79 habitat units is proposed to be enhanced to provide 0.95 units which represents an uplift of 21.02%.

The on-site habitat which was lost and requires compensation consisted of two areas of modified grassland, and one area of mixed scrub with a total area of 0.4378 ha. Statutory Metric Condition Assessment Sheets (5 A and 20 A) have been submitted to describe the species composition in adjacent areas which can be assumed to be in similar condition due to similar management and usage as sports pitches. Historic satellite imagery has been used for evidence.

Post development the new bioswale is expected to achieve moderate condition and deliver 0.02 habitat units.

Metric tab D-1 Off-Site Habitat Baseline proposes to enhance two parcels of modified grassland adjacent to this site and under the same ownership into other neutral grassland and mixed scrub. The two areas of grassland currently have had topsoil dumped on top of them (metric user comments) but their original condition was assumed to be the same as the adjacent field under the same management. **The locations of these parcels must be shown on a plan before determination.**

It is not clear from the information provided whether any trees are proposed to be removed to facilitate this development. There are trees on the aerial photo which are not shown on the location and block plan. As a habitat map has not been submitted it is not clear whether these trees are still in situ or have already been removed. Saplings have been described within the area of scrub proposed to be removed. If trees have been removed, this must be

explained. The location and species of replacement trees must be submitted to and approved by the LPA.

User comments in the metric state that an S106 and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be required, however this can be dealt with by condition rather than S106 due to the small habitat size and low to medium distinctiveness.

The HMMP must show the locations of the areas proposed to be enhanced, planting schemes and a maintenance schedule for the swale and two grassland parcels.

Surface water drainage will be managed by the swale and infiltration basin. The Infiltration basin calculations for grandstand and hardstanding report by Cowan Consultancy (October 2024) demonstrates that infiltration is workable at this location. The Drainage Layout and Details implies that the surface water collected in the swale will flow through a silt trap and then into the infiltration basin. A surface water drainage maintenance schedule is required and can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist