

Ecology response for CS/24/98535 Luminous Oak SEMH School, Flycatcher Road, Boorley Gardens, SO32 2FG

HCC ref: HCC/2024/0665

HCC Consultation: New two storey school for 125 pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, with associated external play areas and parking and drop off facilities

Liz Harrison

3/12/24

As stated in the Ecological Appraisal and BNG Assessment by the Hampshire County Council Ecology Team (HCCET) (October 2024): *The development is for a school on an existing cleared site within an already consented and partially complete major residential development.*

The recommendations in the report are appropriate. August 2023 has been justified as the baseline habitat date for biodiversity net gain assessment. A net gain of 92.24% in area units and of 293% of linear units has been calculated. A biodiversity monitoring and management plan (BMMP) can be conditioned. Since this is a HCC application, will they be responsible for the biodiversity monitoring and management for 30 years?

Specific enhancements for roosting and foraging bats (bat boxes and night scented flowering plants) and nesting birds (particularly swifts) should be incorporated into the building and enhancements for stag beetles and hedgehogs should be incorporated into the landscaping.

I agree with the comments in the Landscape response by Tim Griffin. I would recommend the inclusion of fruit trees with edible fruit to the landscape scheme as these have good wildlife and educational value.

The Planning, Design and Access Statement (page 11) states ***A small built structure to the East of the main building will provide a combined enclosure for staff and pupil cycle parking and refuse storage.*** This is not a good idea. Even if they are in two adjacent enclosures, the refuse bins will be smelly, and this might discourage people from cycling to the site. Refuse storage should be located in a separate locked area that is not accessible to students. Staff secure cycle parking should also be separate from student cycle parking, especially as this is a school for students with social, emotional and mental health needs.

The surface water drainage strategy proposes non-permeable porous paving and tree pits to treat and drain the water from the hardstanding before discharge into the main drainage network. A hydrobrake flow control device would slow the rate of discharge into the existing surface water ditch to the QBar greenfield runoff rate. Geo-cellular storage and permeable paving are proposed for attenuation storage. Treatment for the surface water drainage from the roof would be provided by bioretention tree pits. In the Foul and surface water drainage layout sheet 1 of 2, rainwater collection pipes (RWP) are shown crossing the outline of the building and appear to be running under the building, which may cause maintenance issues.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist