

Ecology response 19 12 24 for F/24/98174 UNIT 1, HEDGE END RETAIL PARK, CHARLES WATTS WAY, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4RT

Proposed erection of a 3m high acoustic fence

David Huckfield

19/12/24

I have reviewed the amended Site Plan as Proposed (P03, December 2024) which has relocated the acoustic fence as close to the edge of the road as possible and immediately behind the vehicle barrier. The plan also states that installation will be carried out from the retail park side to minimise disturbance to vegetation. The recommendations in the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) report by Tyler Grange (December 2024) are appropriate and can be implemented.

Although the fence is proposed to be 66 m long, the new proposed location of the fence does not impact on any habitat, so this application is not required to provide 10% biodiversity net gain.

The proposed biodiversity enhancements for amphibians and reptiles (habitat piles along the woodland edge, south of the new acoustic fence, using arisings from the pruning works) are appropriate and can be conditioned.

A CEMP can be conditioned and must include the key protection measures for amphibians listed in section 3.6 of the EclA report, and all precautionary working methods for amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs (3.11), badgers (3.13), bats (3.17), nesting birds (3.19) and dormice (3.21).

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

18/11/24

I have reviewed the additional information provided by email by the applicant's ecologist, the site photos and the Ecological Assessment report by Tyler Grange (July 2021).

SINC

Although this is adjacent to Hogsty Corner SINC, the need for the acoustic fence has been established by the previous planning permission granted to Aldi in that location and the existence of residential properties which are impacted by the noise of deliveries.

The proposed acoustic fence would be within the existing curtilage and to the north of the existing palisade fence which will be retained.

There will be a small impact due to shading of the vegetation on the edge of the SINC woodland, but this will be minimised by the location of the fence to the north of the woodland.

BNG

Approximately 60 m² of habitat would be lost to the development. The requirement of 10% biodiversity net gain will need to be provided off-site (email of 13/11/24 from Harry Du Bois-Jones at Tyler Grange).

Evidence will need to be provided to the LPA that off-site provision is available and that an agreement to secure off-site units can be agreed.

GCN

The rapid risk assessment result was that great crested newts were highly unlikely to be found in the area of impact of this proposal. Precautionary methods including a fingertip search prior to commencement of any works and storage of materials off-ground/on existing hard standing would be acceptable in this circumstance. If any great crested newts are found, all work must stop, and a licence must be obtained from Natural England.

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) and a biodiversity gain plan including the statutory metric will be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist