

Ecology response 30 1 25 for DC/24/98226 Hill Haven, Winchester Road, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7HB

Application for discharge of conditions 7 (materials), 8 (landscaping), 9 (boundary treatment) and 10 (biodiversity) of planning permission F/21/91726 for: Erection of 2no. detached dwellings (1 x 4-bedroom and 1 x 3-bedroom) with associated access and parking.

Rebecca Altman

30/1/25

I have reviewed the documents labelled Final Landscape Plan and Final Maintenance Schedule (no date but submitted 23/1/25). The previous concerns have been addressed:

81 m² of species rich grassland has now been shown on the plan and a specified seed mix has been listed.

The hedgerow maintenance schedule has been amended to

Year 3 and onwards, a gentle early summer tidy of the weight of growth – in hedges, there must be a videoed inspection to ensure no disturbance of nesting birds. In autumn/winter, cut hedging back tight to the framework of the hedge. Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.

If the landscape designer is unwilling to include information about the importance of retaining seeds and fruits as food for wildlife through the winter, then please add the following educational information to be provided to the homeowners in a welcome pack:

Bats require insects as food, and birds eat insects, seeds and fruits. Unless there are flowering plants which are managed to provide a long season of flowering to provide pollen, nectar, fruits and seeds, the insects that wildlife rely upon for food will not be attracted to this site. When pruning hedging and shrubs, it is important to retain at least one third of the fruit and seeds each year throughout the winter. Summer pruning should only be done after flowering has finished.

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

Conditions 8 and 10 can be discharged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

10/12/24

Conditions 8 and 10

I have reviewed the amended Landscape Plan and the updated Landscape Maintenance Schedule. There is no mention of species-rich wildflower grassland in the amended Landscape Plan or the Landscape Maintenance Schedule, nor any specification for the grassland areas at all. This is an integral part of the ecological mitigation and enhancement/uplift specified by the ecological consultants along with the hedgerow enhancements.

Bats require insects as food and birds eat insects, seeds and fruits. Unless there are flowering plants which are managed to provide a long season of flowering to provide pollen, nectar, fruits and seeds, the insects that wildlife rely upon for food will not be attracted to this site. The directions in the Landscape Maintenance Schedule do not consider retention of lowers in early summer pruning and the fruits and seeds will be lost if the entire hedge is *cut back tight to the framework of the hedge* during year 3 and onwards. The species of hedging plants have been chosen for their wildlife interest, and this will be removed using the maintenance plan as written.

The concerns expressed in the previous ecology response (highlighted in yellow below) have not been addressed in these amended documents.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

25/10/24

Conditions 8 and 10

I have reviewed the Ecological Walkover (September 2024) and Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan (October 2024) by Arbtech, the Landscape Plan by the Tudor Gardener and the Maintenance Schedule.

The precautionary working methods are appropriate. The mitigation and enhancement proposals include planting 21 new trees and 9 additional trees withing the hedgerow, new species rich wildflower grassland, native hedgerow planting, and one swift box and one bat box in each building and hedgehog holes in the fences. The swift nest boxes must have an internal floor area exceeding 400cm². The swift brick recommended in the report is large enough. In case of substitutions this must be checked as some swift nest boxes for sale are not sufficiently large.

The locations of enhancements are shown on a plan in Appendix 1 however, the **lawn areas** are labelled amenity rather than **species rich wildflowers**. The hedgerow species shown on the Landscape Plan are acceptable. I am not sure that the proposed trees will have enough room to grow in the areas shown on the plan but the landscape officer and the tree officer should be consulted on this.

The hedgerow must be managed to maintain a constant supply of flowers, fruits and seeds for wildlife. This can be done by using a 3-year pruning cycle once it has established. It should not be trimmed during nesting bird season (March through August). The top and alternate sides can be trimmed in successive years or 1/3 of the hedge can be trimmed each year. This information must be added to the Maintenance Schedule.

The location and species composition of the species rich wildflower grassland must be shown on the plan and management of this feature for the benefit of pollinators must be added to the Maintenance Schedule.

I note that the drive and parking areas are labelled as tarmac and grasscrete on the Amended Proposed Site and Location Plan by Solent Design. The type of paving will need to be addressed in Condition 6 surface water drainage. Conditions 7 and 8 (materials and landscaping) cannot be discharged until Condition 6 has been discharged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist