



Ecology Comments

F/25/98967 Stroudwood Nursery,
Stroudwood Lane, Lower Upham

Ecosupport Ltd
K4 Keppel,
Daedalus Park,
Lee-on-the-Solent
PO13 9FX

info@ecosupport.co.uk

VAT: 228 4314 18



K4 Keppel
Daedalus Park
Daedalus Drive
Lee on the Solent
PO13 9FX

24th March 2025

Dear Mr & Mrs Wyre,

RE: Ecology Comments for F/25/98967 Stroudwood Nursery, Stroudwood Lane, Lower Upham

This letter serves to provide additional information in response to the ecology comments from Lisa Malter (Eastleigh Borough Council Ecologist). Appropriate amendments have been made to the BNG Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan (Ecosupport, 2025), however, the remaining comments have been addressed below within this letter.

'All of the bramble scrub along the northern boundary is proposed to be retained, however this does not match the proposed site plan which shows 'shrubby' cut back along the western and northern boundaries.'

The 'shrubby' on site comprises predominantly of dense Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) with less than 10% of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), and other species such as Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Broadleaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), upon mounds of horse waste and rubble, which has been classified as 'tall ruderal' within the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric. A strip of Bramble scrub is present on site, however this is to be retained as part of the proposals. Both habitats are shown below in **Figure 1 & Figure 2**, below. As such, the Biodiversity Net Gain baseline mapping and area calculations are considered to be correct.

Figure 1. The tall ruderal habitat (predominantly Common Nettle, showing a close up) on site, facing west.



Figure 2. The strip of Bramble scrub at the north of the site.



'A line of trees is proposed to be planted along the eastern boundary. This has been entered as 0.045 ha area habitat, but this appears to be a linear feature within modified grassland which is an area habitat. In the baseline the existing line of trees is listed as linear habitat (0.036 km) so why would a new line of trees qualify as additional area habitat? Linear habitat and area habitat must be accounted for separately in the metric.'

The proposed trees to the east of the site are scattered individual urban trees, comprising a total of 11 No native trees (totalling an area of 0.0448), to compensate for the loss of tall forbs and modified grassland.

Following the 'Statutory biodiversity metric: user guide' (page 55, DEFRA, 2025), the individual trees within the existing line of trees to be retained (linear habitat) have not been incorporated in the baseline area habitat, as the trees will not be lost. All linear features present at the baseline on site are to be retained as part of the proposals. To ensure the proposals result in a +10% net gain in linear habitats, a native hedgerow will be created along the eastern site boundary, as detailed within the accompanying BNG Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan (Ecosupport, 2025) and BNG mapping.

'In the BNG Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Table 3 on p 18 states that 11 No. urban trees of moderate condition will be created along the eastern boundary of the site. This is shown on the BNG post development Layout plan (18/12/24) but not listed in the BNG metric.'

The accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been updated to reflect an error in the 'User comments' in Tab A-2.

'The flowering grassland seed mixture must be a shade-tolerant mix, suitable for the soil type and for growing under trees, next to a hedge and between a building and a hedge. Emorsgate EL1 has been recommended, however EH1 may be more suitable in this area.'

The report has been updated to reflect that EH1 Hedgerow Mixture (Emorsgate) will be used.

Kind regards,

Darla Brown BSc (Hons)

Project Ecologist