

Ecology response 22/4/25 for F/25/99169 Land adjoining 4 Brookfield, Providence Hill, Bursledon

Construction of a 68-bed care home (Use Class C2) and 3 x close care cottages (Use Class C3 Age Restricted) with associated access, internal access roads, parking, landscaping and infrastructure (revision to application ref. F/24/97312)

Rebecca Altman

28/4/25

The plan in the previous application F/24/97312 was developed to meet any ecological concerns and there were no ecological or surface water drainage reasons for refusal at the decision stage.

I have reviewed the documents for this application and the ecological and surface water considerations are not significantly different to those for the previous application.

I agree with the Landscape Officer's comment (re Landscape Strategy Plan rev 13) that stone gabion walls would be better than kingpost concrete panel retaining walls. Gabion walls provide crevices for wildlife habitat especially reptiles and amphibians. Plants can grow in some of the gaps, providing resources for pollinators and a more attractive feature than a plain concrete panel wall. Further details on the green roof would be helpful.

Section 5.4 of the Planning Statement lists the general development management policies and includes policy DM 11 Nature conservation. This list should be amended to include policy DM 6 Sustainable surface water management and watercourse management.

The Ecological Impact Assessment by Ecosupport (Rev B, April 2025) has been updated with the new proposed layout. Surveys have been updated in 2024 where required. Updated Great crested newt surveys at Windmill pond were scheduled for April 2025. We have not yet received the results of the GCN eDNA tests. If GCN are present at Windmill pond, additional precautions will be required.

Section 4.12 lists the Scarce Blue-Tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*) and Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) under invasive species. This is an error. These are endangered invertebrates not invasive species.

The invasive species cotoneaster, rhododendron and bamboo were recorded in 2024. Japanese knotweed was previously recorded adjacent to the site, within 5 m of the southern boundary. Information is required on any invasive plant eradication and monitoring programmes and the current status of these species on and adjacent to the site. This can be provided as a stand-alone report or included in the CEMP. The March 2025 CEMP does not list any information about precautionary working methods for invasive plant species. This should be included in Appendix A Environment and Ecology Input by Ecosupport (April 2025). The toolbox talks must also include a section on invasive plant species recognition and management.

A walk-over survey for invasive species will be required before the start of works along with a precautionary working method to avoid spreading invasive plants. The location of each of these species must be marked on a plan and photographic evidence must be provided when they are no longer of concern. This can be conditioned.

The Biodiversity Net Gain metric shows that the site can deliver an on-site net gain of 11.47% in habitat units and 39.28% in hedgerow units.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist