

Ecology response 22/5/25 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

22/5/25

I have reviewed the following additional documents and there are some inconsistencies between them.

CEMP Ecology input by Ecosupport (May 2025)

Technical Note (GCN) by Ecosupport (May 2025)

Updated Ecological Impact Assessment by Ecosupport (Rev C, May 2025)

Summary

EclA amendments

It would be very helpful to have a list of sections of the Ecological Impact Assessment which have been amended from Rev B to Rev C. The previous ecology response (28/4/25) highlighted the following items to be addressed:

Layout updates- amended in EclA Rev B, no changes since then

GCN surveys- latest 2025 eDNA results given in the GCN technical note but not updated in the EclA or the CEMP

Invasive species- endangered invertebrates removed, but no further information has been provided about the status of invasive plant species during this growing season, especially Japanese knotweed which is the most difficult to eradicate.

Toolbox talks- invasive species added to toolbox talks

Discussion

The great crested newt eDNA test results for Windmill Pond were negative, so great crested newts are considered likely absent from this site. The proposed habitat enhancements for reptiles would also benefit any amphibians which may use the site in future.

The CEMP Ecology input section on Great Crested Newts must be updated in two places:

1. In Species and Species-Specific Mitigation with the results of the most recent eDNA survey as reported in the Technical Note (GCN), as it does not cite the most recent 14 May 2025 results.

2. The Species section only cites the June 2022 results and states it is necessary to carry out an updated eDNA survey.

In addition the Species-Specific Mitigation section should be amended as follows:

Terrestrial mammals

During construction, any excavations and pipes must either be covered at night or fitted with a slanted rough board as a small animal escape ramp. A site manager or designated responsible person must inspect the excavations each morning to ensure that any animals that may have fallen in overnight have been able to escape.

Reptiles

Fencing A site manager or designated responsible person must inspect the reptile fencing each morning to ensure that any breaches or damage to the reptile fencing can be noted and repaired or replaced as quickly as possible.

GCN

The section on Great Crested Newts must be updated with the results of the most recent eDNA survey, as it only mentions upcoming eDNA analysis in April 2025 and not the most recent 2025 results as described in the technical addendum that has already been provided.

Invasive species

Evidence must be submitted and approved in writing by the LPA to document that the Japanese knotweed reported present on the site boundary has not spread into the site and that a programme of survey and eradication by a suitably accredited contractor has commenced before the start of any construction. Annual monitoring reports must be submitted according to a schedule agreed with the specialist contractor.

Checks for invasive species must be included in the landscape maintenance schedule for this site.

The Updated Ecological Impact Assessment by Ecosupport (Rev C) section 4.7.4 also omits the most recent 14 May 2025 GCN eDNA results and still states that it is necessary to carry out an updated eDNA survey.

The information on Japanese knotweed in section 4.12.1.1 states that the latest walkover survey in April 2024 was not conducted at optimal flowering time for this species. A walkover must be done at the optimal time for this species and as soon as possible so that its status can be updated, and any necessary eradication can be planned, communicated, commissioned and carried out in a timely manner and before it can spread further. This section also cites section 3.4.4 which does not contain any information about Japanese knotweed.

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