From: mariacox99@btinternet.com <mariacox99@btinternet.com>
Sent: 07 October 2024 22:03:17 UTC+01:00
To: "Robert.Hermitage" <Robert.Hermitage@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: DISC/24/0202
Attachments: image001.png

Good evening Robert

Apologies for the late response, I have just returned from Annual Leave. However, thank you for your email and I have pleasure to respond to your Place Services attached comments as follows:-

Comment 1. We have reviewed the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for New Build (August 2024) which has been submitted in order to discharge Condition 7.
We are not satisfied that the submitted information includes the detail required by this condition.
This is because we recommend that the flowering lawn mixture should be specified (Section 2.3.4 of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for New Build (August 2024)).
Response 1. Ermosgtate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture will be used.

Comment 2. We also recommend that the specific designs of the hibernacula/refugia and grass snake piles should be included in the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan. In addition, we assume that the 'solitary insect box' is the 'solitary bee box', but this should be clarified and the specification and location of the box should be included in the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan.
Response 2. The design of the hibernacula refugia will broadly be adapted from that outlined in the GCN Conservation Handbook (Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P., 2001), taking into consideration site conditions.
The hibernacula refugia will be formed by scraping the topsoil away and creating a trench of up to approximately 25 cm, this depth has been selected to avoid potential water logging on the thick clay soil located at the site.
A mixture of rubble, recycled wood (felled ash trees within the site), tree roots and loose soil will be placed in the trench and covered in soil, allowing rubble and wood to poke through in places in order to create environmental heterogeneity and crevices and voids. In some areas soil will be compacted and elsewhere it will be left loose. The hibernacula will then be finished with a covering of turf and supplementary seeding.

Grass snake egg laying piles will be created as follows:-

- One third fresh horse manure
- One third vegetation; and one third large sticks and branches

The solitary insect box is the solitary bee box and will be re-labelled accordingly.

Comment 3. We welcome the specific details of the creation of the Tussocky grass in Sections 2.4.4 to 2.4.6 of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for New Build (August 2024).

Response 3. Once sown, any weed growth from the soil seed bank will be initially left which may initially aid soil the conditions beneath and provide shelter to the sown seedlings. Weeds will then be removed in late summer through mowing and will be removed to ensure slower growing grasses are not smothered by weeds.
The grassland will then be kept short by mowing through the first winter until the end of March of the following year (grass will be cut to 50 mm once it reaches 100−150 mm) and the grass cuttings removed. Any residual perennial weeds such as docks will be dug out once the grassland has been cut short.
Once established tussocky grassland needs little to no management intervention and should be left to establish into a suitable habitat for reptiles

Comment 4. The Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for New Build (August 2024) states in Section 2.2.3 that a native hedgerow 'is to be considered'. However, a native hedgerow was recommended in Section 5.4 of the Hazel Dormouse Survey Report (AEWC, October 2023) and this report was a submitted document to support DC/22/0370. Therefore, we recommend that details of the location should be specified in the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy. We note that the native species to be included in the hedgerow have been specified in Section 2.2.3 of the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for New Build (August 2024).

Response 4. We note this is a recommendation and the location will be addressed in the full landscaping design which will be submitted for planning consideration in due course to include the following:-
The hedgerow will be a minimum of 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide once established, be species rich and contain at least six native species in the following ratios:
70% from a choice of hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica), privet (Ligustrum vulgare), beech (Fagus sylvatica), hazel (Corylus avellana) and dog rose;
25% from a choice of guelder rose, field maple (Acer campestre), European spindle, crab apple (Malus sylvestris), holly (Ilex aquifolium) and yew (Taxus baccata); and
5% from a choice of climbers, such as honeysuckle, bramble (Rubus fruticosus), ivy (hedera helix) and native clematis (i.e. Clematis vitalba).

Comment 5. We highlight that the final details of the biodiversity enhancements, together with specifications and locations, should be included in the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy rather than proposals.

Response 5. Noted.

I trust the above will satisfy their requirements in order for this Discharge. However, should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards
Maria Cox
Tel: 07970 907755

Please see the attached in relation to the above referenced DISC application for your action / attention.

Many thanks

Robert Hermitage

Principal Planning Officer

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