

Begbroke Science Park

Note regarding: Ecology Mitigation for 18/00803/OUT

24 August 2021

Outline planning permission (ref 18/00803/OUT) was granted on 17 September 2018 for up to 12,500 m² of B1a / b / c and ancillary D1 floor space and associated works at Begbroke Science Park.

Condition 14 of outline planning permission states:

“The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the recommendations set out in Table 6 of the Ecology Report prepared by BSG, issued on 4th May 2018.”

“Reason- To ensure that the development does not cause harm to any protected species or their habitats in accordance with Policy ESD10 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.”

The following table, produced by Tom Flynn, Principal Ecologist at BSG Ecology, identifies the delivery mechanisms, and any variation from the recommendations set out in the table referenced above.

Feature	Avoidance/Mitigation/Compensation/Enhancement
Designated Sites	None required
Hedgerow	The majority of the hedgerow (located on the western boundary of Zone B) is retained in the landscape plan. Ongoing management is specified in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP). New hedgerow, exceeding the ca. 14 m to be lost is detailed in the landscape plan, and has ongoing management specified in the LEMP.
Trees	A greater number of trees are proposed as part of the landscape strategy than will be lost and these are detailed on the landscape plan. The RMS is accompanied by an Addendum to the Arboricultural Assessment addressing the implications of this.
Semi-improved neutral grassland	The loss of 0.15 ha of semi-improved neutral grassland at the Site will be more than compensated for by the enhancement of 0.3 ha of poor semi-improved grassland elsewhere in the Science Park. This grassland enhancement will result in a net gain in habitat biodiversity at the Site.
Badger	A pre-construction badger survey has been specified in the CEMP document which forms an appendix to the LEMP.
Bats	The lighting strategy for the scheme is being developed and will ensure that light spill beyond the boundary planting of the Science Park is avoided). Bat surveys are to be undertaken in relation to the full planning application for the new car park and service building in the north-west corner of the site and the lighting scheme will take account of the results of these surveys. The required ten bat boxes have been incorporated into the architect's designs. These have been located appropriately via input from BSG Ecology and will be mounted on south-facing aspects of plant screens at roof level.
Nesting Birds	Measures to protect nesting bird during clearance of woody vegetation are set out in the CEMP document which forms and appendix to the LEMP.

	<p>The required eight boxes for small bird species and five boxes for swifts have been incorporated into the architect's designs. These have been located appropriately via input from BSG Ecology.</p>
<p>Reptiles and Great crested newt</p>	<p>As there is some potential for killing and injury of individual great crested newts, the works will be carried out under an appropriate protected species licence from Natural England. For example, a suitable approach would be registration under the Naturespace district-wide licence; this will involve payment for conservation works for this species in the district and may require some protection measures during clearance and construction (to be advised by Naturespace).</p> <p>Precautionary protection measures for amphibians and reptiles during site clearance are specified in the CEMP document which forms an appendix to the LEMP. This involves regular mowing of grassland areas to prevent use by these species prior to turf stripping.</p> <p>The creation of two habitat banks suitable for reptiles and amphibians, as specified in the ecology report, has been incorporated in to the LEMP document.</p>
<p>Invertebrates</p>	<p>The creation of two habitat banks suitable for invertebrates of sandy soils, as specified in the ecology report, has been incorporated in to the LEMP document.</p>