

J.A. Higham MRICS

J Higham Associates
Chartered Surveyors
Woodlands Cottage
Normandy
Guildford, Surrey
GU3 2HT

25 November 15

Dear Tony,

REFERENCE: P/94/15/PL - Land to the east of 29 Harbour Road, Pagham, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

I write to you in the capacity of Principal at Arbtech Consulting Ltd. This letter report contains my consideration of summary points 2] and 4] as raised in a memorandum by Charlotte Hardy – Senior Environmental Assessment Officer – of Arun District Council; of the 15th October 2015.

Summary Point 2 – “Confirms that the vegetated shingle has been succeeded and no longer plays a role for the nearby Harbour”

Arbtech Consulting Ltd undertook an NVC vegetation survey of the site (dated 23rd June 2015). No vegetated shingle habitat of the type recognised by the Biodiversity Opportunity Area was present in the site area.

I can confirm that I am currently working in the Chichester area on projects directly impacting this type of habitat and am well aware of its nature conservation significance.

I have undertaken a review of the Arbtech NVC survey on the 4th November 2015 and I can confirm that the habitat type is not present or at risk of being affected by the proposals.

This is the result of successional and anthropic change. The site is removed from active coastal processes. I consider that the East Front Road is effectively the demarcation line for habitat driven by active coastal process. The nearest vegetated shingle is 60m from the southern boundary of the proposal area.

Figure 1 – typical vegetated shingle habitat elsewhere in the Chichester area.



Summary Point 4 – “Provides information of the green infrastructure functions and how the intended enhancements for biodiversity relate to these”

Green infrastructure can be defined as a network of multi-functional greenspace, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. It can operate on a spatial and conceptual level as well as be a consideration of individual elements and their contribution to biotic and abiotic processes. The concept of relationship to wildlife corridors is important. The multi-functional character of green infrastructure means that it also considers cultural as well as landscape and ecological assets/habitats, along with concepts such as sustainable water and resource management and use of river corridors and floodplains for amenity greenspace, and biodiversity, in addition to positive benefits to human health and mental well-being. It is an holistic approach.

The contribution that the site can make to green infrastructure function is proportional to scale and it is fair to say that this site is a minor development affecting approximately 870m² of land directly with a site perimeter of a little over 150m. As such its contribution to green infrastructure can only be accordingly modest.

Arbtech Consulting Ltd conducted a reptile presence/likely-absence survey (21st August 2015) and confirmed the presence of two reptile species – namely slow worm

and common lizard. The report makes recommendations for not only how reptiles will be protected from harm during works by installation of herptile barrier and the purposeful translocation of trapped animals out of the construction footprint.

Figure 2 – approximate line for proposed herptile barrier.



The isolated area will be systematically trapped out for a period of at least 30 working days and animals transferred outside the barrier. This will allow compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) avoiding harm to animals resulting from construction.

The report then goes on to describe measures that will be put in place in the landscaping areas of the proposal that amount to enhancement for biodiversity. The measures are to include:

- A part-buried rubble/stone hibernacula.
- The mosaic nature of the habitat will be strengthened through scrub and grassland planting.
- Vegetation mounds – arisings from cleared vegetation mounds are to be placed to form habitat mounds.

The measures are purposeful “structures” that are specifically employed to improve habitat conditions for common reptiles. They serve to mitigate for any change in habitat suitability resulting from the proposals but also in the case of the hibernacula to actually enhance site conditions because no such feature is currently available.

These measures mean that the proposal site contributes to the ecological flow of reptile populations as a “leap-frog” site assuring connectivity between reptile populations greenspace on land to the north of Harbour Road and the active coastal habitat to the south as well as further reptile habitat to the east north east of the site.

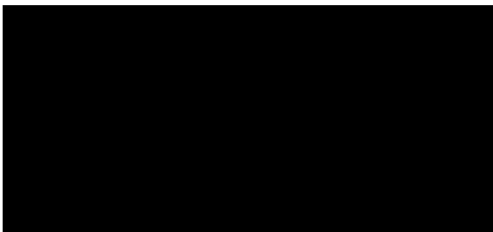
This ecological connectivity for reptiles (and indeed other mobile fauna) is set out in figure 3 illustrating green infrastructure connectivity maintained by “leap-frog” habitat measures.

Figure 3 – Green Infrastructure Connectivity



It is expected that reptile translocation, and enhancement will be controlled through the use of an appropriate planning condition.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Formaggia BSc (Joint Hons) CBiol CEnv MCIEEM MRBS VR
Principal
Arbtech Consulting Ltd

