

MEMORANDUM

From:	Duncan Fisher Ecology Officer		
Service	SDL Ecology	App No:	250368
Address:	British Museum Archaeological Research Collection (Arc) Facility, Land Off Cutbush Lane, Shinfield, RG2 9AA.		
Proposal:	Full application for the proposed creation of a secondary vehicular access with associated landscaping, gates and fencing, plus removal of existing hardstanding and relocation of a shelter.		
Type of Development:	Minor All other developments		
Site Visit Made:	Yes/No		

Summary Of Recommendations

- ☐ No comment
- ☐ No objection
- ☒ **No objection subject to conditions (and reasons) stated below**
- ☐ Request further information before determination as **stated below**
- ☐ Objection due to the reason(s) **stated below**

Comments On Proposal

This application is supported by an Ecological Appraisal (Ecological Planning & Research, ref: 32/58-1C, January 2025), a Biodiversity Statement (Ecological Planning & Research, ref: 32/58-2B, December 2024), and a completed statutory metric for biodiversity net gain.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Line by line comments on the baseline assessment are supplied in an LPA comments version of the metric. I accept that the indicative degradation to the site has occurred as the result of previously consented development and therefore it is legitimate to include as the baseline in this instance.

I can recommend that the LPA can accept the baseline assessment for biodiversity net gain. At this stage the full detail of the post-development scenario is not agreed – as this should be resolved at the point of discharge for the general biodiversity gain condition.

I note that the strategy for the post-development scenario is to deliver the mandatory net gain on-site. This is appropriate as per the mitigation hierarchy. Section 4 of the Biodiversity Statement sets out recommendations for delivery and monitoring. It is not entirely clear who will have ongoing management responsibility for the period

of 30 years for the on-site habitats (particularly as there is habitat creation inside and outside the fence). The applicant's consultant recommends that ongoing responsibilities will be set out within a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). I recommend that submission and approval of an HMMP is secured by condition.

Protected Species

Considering the nature of the site, as described in the Ecological Appraisal, I am of the opinion that the proposed development is unlikely to adversely impact protected species and it would be disproportionate to the risk to condition specific mitigation measures during construction or the operational phase.

Summary

As long as long-term management of on-site habitats is secured via the HMMP condition, I can recommend that the proposed development will likely be beneficial to biodiversity.

Conditions & Reasons (if required)

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

British Standard 42020:2013 standard condition D.4.5 (for a Landscape Ecological Management Plan) can be adapted:

Condition: *A habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) shall be submitted to, and be approved in writing by, the local planning authority prior to the commencement of the development. The content of the HMMP shall include the following.*

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.*
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.*
- c) Aims and objectives of management – including but not limited to delivery of mandatory biodiversity net gain for a minimum of 30 years.*
- d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.*
- e) Prescriptions for management actions.*
- f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).*
- g) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan.*
- h) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.*

The HMMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(ies) responsible for its delivery. The plan shall also set out the monitoring regime, including reporting to the local planning authority, and how contingencies and/or remedial action will be identified, agreed and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme. The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: *To help secure the mandatory biodiversity net gain target and biodiversity enhancement as per local plan policy TB23*

Date:	23 April 2025	Signed:	D. Fisher
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