Dear David,

APP/18/01226 | Construction of an 81bed, four-storey hotel (Class C1), associated car-parking, landscaping and ancillary works. | Land off Larchwood Avenue (Former Stantons Yard), Larchwood Avenue, Havant 19.1758

Not wishing to further fruitless discussion, all I was say is that any review of the distribution of woodland and scrub cover in this immediate landscape can only conclude that the scrub habitat within the site is quite obviously linked ecologically to the wider wooded landscape. An ecological network does not have to comprise a contiguous corridor of habitat. As detailed in my previous response, and that of my colleague before that, it is unfortunate that this wider landscape linkage was not taken into account at the earliest planning stages and continues to be questioned. The entire purpose of ecological assessment is not simply to assess the impacts of a predetermined proposal but to influence site layout and design. The loss of all scrub habitat here should have been highlighted in the context of the wider ecological network of which it is a part and recommendations made to retain linkages to that wider network. This would ensure that development adheres to the principles of protecting the natural environment within NPPF, such as '*minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity*, *including by establishing coherent ecological networks*'. The unmitigated loss of scrub/woodland habitat is not in accordance with this principle and therefore comments in relation to buffering are not unfounded nor disingenuous.

As recommended by my colleague and I in our previous responses, details of ecological landscape plantings (which should seek to provide continued native scrub habitat within the site, not solely ornamental shrubs) can be subject to condition.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team

Specialist Environment Services
Economy, Transport and Environment Department
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court West
The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UD
Direct Line: 01962 832335
E-mail: tristan.norton@hants.gov.uk; www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity

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