

Dear David,

APP/19/00703 | Part-demolition of Building 1000 and associated works; the erection of new flexible use industrial units; and a new parking layout with associated works to layout and access. | Langstone Technology Park, 2B Langstone Road, Havant, PO9 1SA 19.2185

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is now accompanied by a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (The Ecology Co-op, October 2019). This includes measures to transplant an area of species-rich grassland (containing orchid species) within the site. I am supportive of any measure to avoid permanent impacts to this grassland (the presence of orchid species indicates that it is generally unimproved and of high species-richness). I would strongly recommend that a minimum 15cm depth of soil is transplanted and that as much of the grassland surrounding the orchid species is retained (the surrounding sward will contain hundreds of orchid seeds and will be crucial in the long-term viability of any plants present). I would also add that it would be prudent to carry out a pre-works survey of the grassland. If works have not commenced by spring 2020 it should be possible to locate and identify the species of orchid present: some species will reach peak flower during April whilst others will emerge later in the summer months or even early autumn.

The persistence of any orchid grassland will be dependent largely on the future management regime. It is imperative that appropriate long-term management is secured: a bespoke mowing regime will be needed that allows any orchids to set seed (the timing will depend on the species) and avoids fertilisation. I welcome the management measures set out within the submitted report.

At this stage, there is no detailed landscaping plan and therefore the proposed bespoke management methods for the orchid grassland (and the other ecological mitigation and enhancement measures) are not included within any site-wide drawing plans. In order for these measures to be secured it is recommended that they are included within any submitted landscape strategy.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**

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