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17th June 2021

Ref: Langstone Technology Park

To whom it may concern,

I undertook a site visit on the 17th June 2021 to determine the suitability of a proposed grassland translocation receptor area to accommodate an area of grassland identified to support orchids *Orchidaceae sp.* at the request of Barton Wilmore.

The area of grassland supporting orchids was determined to have higher ecological value and cannot be protected in situ and therefore the translocation of this grassland was recommended. There are three potential areas which can act as a receptor site. A fourth was originally proposed, but is not suitable due to the large amount of shade created by adjacent trees.

The grassland areas that will act as a receptor site do not contain any notable botanical interest and will have enough sunlight or semi shaded areas to support orchid species. Recommended locations to receive the translocated turf are shown in Figure 1. The most favourable location is north-west of the site, by building 1000 (Photographs 1-4).

Mitigation Measures

An area of between 20 – 30m² of the donor grassland will be translocated to a new location in full sun or semi-shaded within the site.

The process for this translocation is set out within the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan produced by the Ecology Co-op¹ and includes the following measures:

- The proposed area to receive the translocated turf will be turf stripped using a digger to create an area of bare ground. Good ground preparation is essential to the success of the turf translocation.
- The turf to be translocated will be first cut, to reduce the water demand from plants in the sward and then carefully stripped to a depth of 15cm using a digger.
- The lifted turf and associated soil will be laid in the new location upon the area of bare ground created. It will be lightly rolled to ensure the roots make contact with the new substrate.
- The above will be best undertaken between late August and the end of September during mild and wet weather best suited to establishment or during mid-March to early May when the ground has sufficient moisture and there is no requirement for watering.

¹ Biodiversity Enhancement Plan – Land at Langstone Technology Park, Havant. The Ecology Co-op (2020).

- As part of on-going management, this area of translocated turf should be managed through a reduced cutting regime to allow it to develop into a wildflower area. The sward should be cut (with all cuttings removed and composted) between mid-August and late September every year. Cutting in the spring (March/April) should be included if the sward grows too vigorously. This management will allow the wildflowers present to establish and flower, developing increased ecological value.

Donor Site Selection

The favourable preferred receptor site should be larger than the donor habitat area, ensuring the receptor site can both accommodate the turf that is to be translocated and provide opportunity for the species within the translocated turf to disperse. Figure 1 within the attached appendix illustrates the location of four grassland areas assessed for their suitability to act as a receptor area. Photographs provided in the appendix further illustrate the character of these identified potential receptor sites.

Further to my site visit and assessment, I am able to confirm that the applicants preferred option towards the northern boundary of the site (see photographs 1 & 2) is afforded suitable light and is sufficiently free from disturbance to ensure that the best chances of success would be achieved. The alternative potential receptor areas to the northeast and east are also suitable, whilst being slightly more shaded, though a proposed receptor area to the southeast was found to be too heavily shaded.

The grassland present in all three potential receptor areas is improved and regularly mown. Whilst the present management and topsoil conditions may not be suitable for the botanical value associated with the donor site, the prescribed methodology in the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan will ensure that the botanical interest present within the donor grassland is retained and enhanced.

If you have any queries about the findings of this assessment, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

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Appendix 1

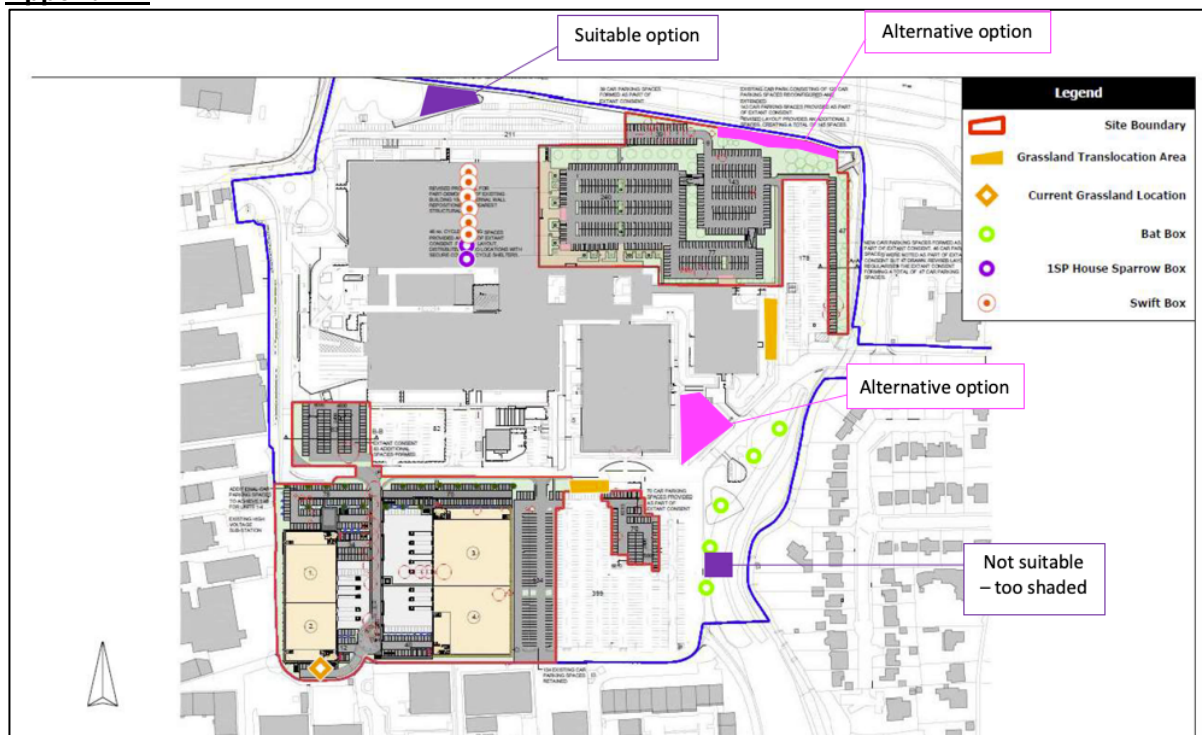


Figure 1: The suitable option is north-west of the site, the other two alternative options are also suitable. The area at the south west of the site is not a suitable translocation area.



Photographs 1 and 2: Favourable area for translocation at the northern end of the Langstone Technology park.



Photographs 3 and 4: Favourable area for translocation at the north-west end of the Langstone Technology park.



Photograph 5 and 6: Alternative option east of building 6000.



Photograph 7 and 8: Alternative option in the north-east corner of Langstone Technology park



Photograph 9 and 10: Unsuitable option due to too much shade in the south-east corner of Langstone technology park.