

# HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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Ask for: Simon Richards  
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Date: 20/10/2022

Dear David

**Reference:** 6/2022/1853/MAJ  
**Address:** Eisai Europe Limited, European Knowledge Centre, Mosquito Way, Hatfield, AL10 9SN  
**Application:** Construction of a 4,012sqm extension to the existing warehouse space (Use Class E) with associated plant and works including the relocation of a bicycle shelter, re-routed internal access road and landscaping

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on the application above, for which I have the following comments:

## Summary of advice:

- Sufficient survey effort to establish the ecological value of the site
- No notable species or habitats present
- No significant ecological constraints
- Compensation for tree loss advised
- Discretionary advice regarding use of a biodiversity metric.

## Supporting documents:

The application is supported by the following report:

- Preliminary ecological appraisal by AECOM Limited (report date July 2022)
- landscape plan drawing 60681916-ACM-XX-XX-DR-L-00600,

## Comments:

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken on the 20th of May 2022 and describes a site dominated by buildings, hard standing, areas of amenity grassland introduced shrubs and ruderal vegetation and suggest that the proposed development site supported only modest ecological importance. There will be a loss on site of habitat features and trees to accommodate the proposals, but I do not consider that the habitats affected are of sufficient value to represent a fundamental constraint. Forty young trees are proposed for removed and should be compensated for on a 1: 1 basis preferably with native

species. Although, the landscape plan drawing 60681916-ACM-XX-XX-DR-L-00600, shows only 26 new trees I note that it states the drawing was produced prior to a tree survey being carried out and would need updating accordingly. like-for-like basis with plantings being within the Site. The LPA should expect updated plan to demonstrate full compensation for being lost for the trees being lost.

No notable or protected species or potential for them, except for nesting birds, were observed on site. I have no reason to disagree with this assessment, suitable measures are suggested to protect nesting birds and should be followed in full.

Landscaping plans include measures of biodiversity value, this though appears to be limited by a need / preference for planting that discourages invertebrates. Given the entangled nature of ecosystems this is hard to achieve without a corresponding loss of biodiversity value. Nevertheless, creative measures have been suggested.

In the absence of a biodiversity metric, it is not possible for the LPA to assess a quantitative measure of the biodiversity resulting from these plans. If the LPA is seeking this and or a set percentage of biodiversity net gain, such as the 10% which is an expectation of the Environment Act, I advise that the LPA requests a completed biodiversity metric v 3.1 is submitted for their consideration. However as measurable net gain or the use if the metric is not yet mandatory I can not advise that the absence of these constitutes a reason for refusal.

Yours sincerely

Simon Richards  
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology