

Ecology response for F/22/93593 16 KEBLE ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3DS

Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of 4 x detached dwellings with associated garages and hard & soft landscaping

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Surface water drainage

The DAS by Barclay and Phillips Architects shows potential soakaway locations in the rear garden of each dwelling and permeable surfacing to the shared access main drive. Soakaways must be located at least 5m from any structure. It is not clear that this is possible in plot 2. Soakaways must be supported by infiltration test results.

Ecology

I have reviewed the Ecological Assessment by Peach Ecology (July 2022). The recommendations in the report are sound and should be implemented. This includes:

Nesting birds: Vegetation removal and building demolition will need to take place outside of the bird nesting which runs from 1st March – 1 st August inclusive to ensure nesting birds are not harmed. Alternatively, this can be done under ecological supervision.

Two house sparrow nest boxes and two swift nest boxes will be built into the new houses or attached firmly to the exterior of each new dwelling under the eaves at a suitable location, one box per dwelling at least, as shown in Appendix E of the report. Built in boxes are preferred to externally mounted boxes as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

Hedgehogs: Any new fencing on site should allow passage of hedgehogs into and out of the garden areas and into and out of the site by avoiding gravel boards or creating gaps (13 x 13 cm minimum) at suitable locations in each new garden. Install a hedgehog hibernation feature in every garden along the southern boundary hedgerow concealing this with vegetation. (details in Appendix G and F).

Bats: Lighting design will also need to be considered to avoid new roosting features, landscaped areas, and potential roosts outside the site boundary. LED downlighters will be used if external lighting is necessary along with down pointing bollard lighting.

Care will be taken when roof tiles are removed, and an ecologist will be present on site during demolition.

Two integrated bat boxes will be used on two of the buildings, one box on each dwelling, facing south.

Landscaping: (details are in Appendix F)

The Leyland cypress hedge will be removed and replaced with native hedgerow.

Native hedgerow and native bulb planting will be used at the boundary of all rear gardens at the edge of the lawn, 100m of new hedgerow will be planted. A range of native bulbs (daffodils, bluebells, snowdrops etc) will be planted at a density of 10-20 per m². Native hedgerow will include woody species including hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, hazel, guelder rose. Trees within the hedgerow can consist of edible fruit bearing species like apple, cherry and plum.

Rear garden lawns will be sown with wildflower seed (Emorsgate EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture or similar).

At least fifteen new trees including five new apple trees will be planted on site in gardens.

Post and rail fencing will be used along the southern boundary between the residential curtilage and the reptile receptor area.

Appendix E provides a summary of recommended bat and bird features.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist