

Ecology response for H/22/94049 13 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5DJ

Two storey front and rear extension. New roof over existing side extensions. Log burner flue and elevational alterations. Mobile home during construction

Alex Webb

21/11/22

Ecology

I have reviewed the Bat Survey Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (September 2022). The building was assessed to have low bat roost suitability and one bat activity survey was carried out. No bats were seen emerging from the building.

The report is valid for 12 months only due to the mobile nature of bats. The potential roost feature would remain available to bats after the construction is complete. If construction is delayed longer than 12 months from the time of the last activity survey (August 2022) further surveys will be required.

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs is also required. If hedgehogs are using the site they would be sheltering under dense vegetation or within long grass, dead leaves, or piles of dead wood. These areas should be cleared by hand, not using a digger, to allow animals time to escape. Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site.

During construction any excavations or open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with a small mammal escape ramp (a rough board slanted at a shallow angle) to prevent hedgehogs from becoming trapped. If hedgehogs are found they should not be handled but be left to move away on their own to a place of shelter. *If a hedgehog is found during development and/or there are welfare concerns, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted for advice and guidance on 01584 890 801.*

The removal of any vegetation which might support nesting birds must be done outside of bird nesting season (which is normally between March and August). This would include any overhanging trees, shrubs and the climbing plant shown on the rear elevation. If this is not possible, then a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required within 24 hours before removal. If active nests are found the area must be cordoned off with a 5 m buffer and not disturbed until after the young have fledged and left the nest.

The recommendations in the report (section 5.6) are sound and should be implemented. These include removing *Crocosmia × crocosmiiflora* (Montbretia), where required; new bat roost provision; sensitive lighting (for bats and other wildlife); and new bird nesting provision. Additional optional enhancements are listed in Appendix D.

The log burner flue must not be located near the proposed built-in bat and bird roosts.

Surface water drainage

The current surface water drainage system can be used. If soakaways are in use currently, the applicant must be advised that soakaways must be located at least 5 m from any built structure. Evidence of a satisfactory surface water drainage system, and that the extensions will not be too close to a soakaway, must be provided.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist