

Ecology response for H/22/94210 30 THISTLE ROAD, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 OTT

Single storey side extension

Claire Campbell-Best

21/12/22

Ecology

The proposed extension will affect the roof of the existing side extension. The proposed roof lights will allow light from the building to shine on the side elevation above the extension. This is surfaced with hanging tiles which may provide roosting opportunities for bats and or shelter for nesting birds.

There are several records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site.

The Bat Survey report by CC Ecology (March 2022) states that *a small triangle of hanging tiles will need to be removed to facilitate the joining of the roof of the new extension with the main house. A small number of roof tiles on the rear of the existing garage will need to be disturbed to join the new and old roofs....a small strip of scrub/hedgerow located between the wall of the property and the public footpath to the side of 30 Thistle Road may be indirectly impacted by dust and noise as a result of localised construction works.*

The property has been assessed as having moderate bat roost potential, and there are potential bat roost features within the area that would be impacted by the proposed works. Two further bat activity surveys are required. These must be done at least two weeks apart within the active bat season (May through September). It is recommended to have these surveys done early enough within the season that if bats are seen emerging or re-entering the building there will still be time for a third survey, which would be needed for a mitigation license application to Natural England.

As the presence of protected species is a material consideration, these surveys must be done before planning permission can be granted. If a mitigation license is needed this can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted.

The proposal also has the potential to affect nesting birds and hedgehogs both on the site and in the scrub vegetation along and outside the southern boundary.

These recommendations in the report are sound and should be implemented.

Recommended conditions: *If works to remove hanging tiles and disturb roof tiles is undertaken during the nesting bird period (March through September) an early morning bird survey and check by a suitably qualified ecologist must be undertaken prior to the works taking place. If any active bird nests are found work must not commence until a suitable buffer has*

been erected (usually 5m) to protect the nest from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest. If the work cannot be done without disturbing the nesting birds, then it must wait until the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Reason: To avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

As a precaution for hedgehogs and other small mammals to avoid becoming trapped any excavations or open pipes must be covered or fitted with a slanted rough board as an escape ramp at night. Building materials must be stored on hard standing or on pallets to avoid hedgehogs using them for shelter. If removal of vegetation is necessary additional ecological advice with respect to dormice and hedgehogs will be required.

Reason: To avoid harm to small mammals such as hedgehogs and dormice.

The recommendations for biodiversity enhancement are sound and should be implemented. Swift nest boxes can be considered as an alternative bird box if conditions are suitable as other birds will also use them if swifts are not in residence. Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight.

(<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>)

Surface Water Drainage

The layout drawings show that the extension is proposed to be built over what appears to be an existing surface water drain and an inspection chamber. It also shows a 150mm main line passing through the rear corner of the building. This is not acceptable. A surface water drainage engineer must be consulted to determine alternative surface water drainage arrangements.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist