

Ecology response 10 1 23 for H/22/94423 148 CHURCH ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6DS

Single storey rear extension and associated internal alterations. Removal of slate-hung cladding. Replacement of front porch. Alterations to fenestration.

Rachael Morris

Documents reviewed:

Bat Survey Report and Mitigation Strategy by CC Ecology (V 1.2, January 2023)

Weymouth House Garage- Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) and Phase 2 Bat Survey Updated Report by CC Ecology (January 2023, although report letter was dated January 2022 by mistake, because it refers to a survey in May 2022)

Bats

This building has been confirmed as a small day roost for soprano pipistrelle bats, which were recorded emerging from under hanging tiles on two occasions. A European Protected Species Licence will be required. This can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted. The removal of hanging tiles and any other ecologically sensitive features will be done under the supervision of a bat licensed ecologist. Mitigation will also include a bat box to be installed on a mature tree in the garden (in case any bats are found during the tile removal) and two interlocking bat tubes installed in the wall of the renovated building to compensate for loss of the soprano pipistrelle day roost. The bat box in the garden will be retained as biodiversity enhancement.

Breeding birds

The house has potential to support nesting birds. Although no evidence of nesting birds was found during the preliminary ecological assessment (PEA), the openings in the building could allow birds to enter and build a nest inside. The PEA report recommends that *if works are likely to take place within the nesting bird season (March-August inclusive) that care is taken to ensure that no birds' nests are present prior to works. In the event that bird nests are discovered it would be necessary to contact a suitably qualified ecologist for advice.*

Destruction of any areas with nesting bird potential must be done either outside of nesting bird season (March-August inclusive) or after a pre-works check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Reptiles and Amphibians

The areas within the footprints of the extension and surrounding the house have the potential to support reptiles and amphibians such as slow worms and toads, and slow worms have been observed in the garden by the applicants.

Any demolition and construction works must follow the precautionary working method for herptiles set out in Annex 5 of the Weymouth House Garage – Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) and Phase 2 Bat Survey UPDATED REPORT. This includes clearance of habitats only during the active season (mid-March through October under suitable temperatures) and under ecological supervision.

Biodiversity enhancements for reptiles and amphibians were recommended in the report, including log piles, and maintaining habitat areas of long tussocky grasses and wildflowers.

Biodiversity enhancements

Biodiversity enhancements are required. In addition to the enhancements already being implemented by the applicants, the report recommends planting additional native fruiting shrubs and installing integrated or external bird boxes especially swift nest boxes and/or sparrow terraces under the eaves of the house. Night flowering scented plants are important to attract insects such as moths as food for bats. Further information can be found at <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats. 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>)

Lisa Malter

Ecologist