

Ecology response amended for F 23 94447 GROUND FLOOR, UNIT 3 HAMPSHIRE HOUSE
HAMPSHIRE CORPORATE PARK, TEMPLARS WAY, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3RY

Construction of a 12.5 square metres mechanical plant compound

Alex Webb

1/3/23

I have reviewed the site photos. Although there is an area of scrub along the edges of the site, the area proposed for development appears to be recently mown making it not currently suitable habitat for reptiles. It looks as if some of this area was allowed to develop into a meadow in the last growing season with short mown pathways through it. This would have been attractive to reptiles during their active season, and they could be hibernating along the edges of the site if there are any suitable features in the woodland or scrub areas.

I don't think further surveys will be necessary, however a precautionary working method for reptiles should be conditioned. If any reptiles are found during the construction phase, work must stop, and an ecological clerk of works will be required to supervise the area to prevent harm to reptiles.

To avoid suitable reptile habitat developing in the area proposed for the mechanical plant compound, this area (the area currently mown and shown in the site photos) must be kept mown short, with arisings removed to avoid nutrient enrichment, until the development is completed. If any suitable reptile habitat is allowed to develop before the start of works, then a reptile survey and mitigation may be required. It can be allowed to develop into a meadow area again when construction is complete. Depending upon when the construction is finished the area may need re-seeding with a suitable wildflower meadow mix.

I don't see any potential bat roost features on the building, however some of the trees in the woodland belt along the edge of the site may have some potential features. Suitable biodiversity enhancements would include a reptile hibernaculum, a log pile for invertebrates in the woodland and/or bat boxes on some of the mature trees.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

13/2/23

The proposed area is near a woodland belt on the site boundary along Bournemouth Road which is connected to Hut Wood SINC and there are records of reptiles and bats nearby. Please could you provide some close-up photos of the area that would be affected by the proposal to determine whether any further survey will be required. I also need to know the distance between the enclosure and the nearest trees to determine whether the operation of this plant would affect birds or bats that might be using the trees for roosting, foraging or nesting.

Biodiversity enhancements are also required. The applicant can propose enhancements which would best suit the site and the building. These can include bat or bird boxes, flowering plants to attract pollinators or a log pile for invertebrates.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist