

Ecology response for F/23/94930 Barncroft, Farm Close, Hamble-le-Rice, SO31 4RZ

Conversion of boat storage building to form [1.no](#) one bedroom dwelling including provision of vehicle parking, amenity space and landscaping; cycle and refuse storage facilities, construction of 1.7m high boundary wall and retention of 2m high boundary hedge (Revision of F/22/93701)

Alex Webb

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Previous applications F/18/84270, F/20/88507, APP/W1715/W/20/3265825, F/21/91243 and F/22/93701

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Assessment by Ecosupport (December 2022) for the previous application F/22/93701. Three potential bat roost features were identified, giving an assessment of low bat roost potential. Emergence surveys are not required as the proposal does not involve any works to the roof.

The hedge was assessed to have low potential for breeding and nesting birds. The report notes that the current proposals do not involve direct work to the roof. Adding loft insulation does not usually disturb bats nesting under roof tiles as the work would be done within one day. Internal works do not require planning permission.

Condition: Any maintenance of vegetation on site must take place outside of the bird nesting season (typically between 1st March and 31st August, dependent on weather). If this is not possible, the area to be cleared must be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to clearance. If any active nests are found, they must be left undisturbed with a suitable buffer (ca. 5m) until nestlings have fledged and left the nest.

Reason: To avoid disturbance of breeding and nesting birds or damage to their nests.

The recommended enhancements of a bat box, a bird box and a hedgehog home would be appropriate. The property is not suitable for a swift nest box due to lack of a large enough drop or clear flight lines.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist