

Ecology response for F/23/94745 3 WHALESMEAD ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8HD

Sever land and erect a 3 bedroom chalet bungalow with parking

Clare Martin

27/3/23

There are records of bats, common toads and hedgehogs near this site.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by KJF Consultancy Ltd (February 2022).

The biodiversity enhancement recommendations in the report included provision of 2 bee bricks, 1 swift nest box, a hedgehog nest box, and at least two hedgehog holes in the gravel boards of any closed board fences to allow free passage of small animals through the gardens.

The advice from Swift Conservation is that 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>). It is not clear from the proposed elevations whether this will be possible. Advice can be obtained directly from Swift Conservation as to the most appropriate location for a swift nest box on this property.

A bat box may be more practical for this site. The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. (<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/putting-up-your-box>).

Flowering plants and shrubs that would attract pollinators and provide food for wildlife should be included in the garden.

The site photos show some opportunities for nesting birds in the garden. Any vegetation that might support nesting birds must only be cleared outside of bird nesting season (March through August inclusive) or after a check for nesting birds. Birds sometimes nest in sheds and summerhouses. These were mentioned in the PEA report but not described or photographed.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

A surface water drainage proposal is required before determination.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist