

Ecology response amended for H/23/94644 DURNCOMB HOUSE, DODWELL LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 1AB

Loft conversion and single storey side extension

Alex Stone

11/4/23

I have reviewed the Extended Phase 1 Ecological Assessment by Phillips Ecology (March 2023). Approximately 20 bat droppings were found in the loft, there were gaps under the roof and under the hanging tiles. The main dwelling is assessed to have high bat roost suitability with evidence of bats, and the outbuildings have negligible suitability for bats.

An active badger sett is present within the wider site boundary and high levels of badger activity were recorded within the woodland on site, with open access for badgers to commute through and forage on site. There is high potential for hedgehogs to be on site, due to the availability of habitat, although no evidence of hedgehogs was noted in the survey. There is moderate to low potential for reptiles to be on site, but low potential within the zone of impact for these proposals. There is moderate potential for breeding birds within the zone of impact.

At least three bat activity surveys will be required during the active bat survey season (May through August). The results of these surveys will be required to determine the type of mitigation required and to inform a European protected species license application if required. The presence of protected species is a material consideration and must be established before determination.

Precautionary working methods will be required to protect any badgers, hedgehogs, great crested newts and reptiles which may be using the site. A wildlife sensitive lighting plan and a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) can be conditioned. Soft demolition practices will be required for demolition of the two outbuildings, which are located within the boundary of ancient woodland on site. These methods are outlined in section 14 of the report and can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

23/2/23

There are records of bats, badgers and hedgehogs very close to or possibly at this property. The biodiversity checklist has been filled out with *no* checked off in all of the boxes, however our mapping system shows that the house is 17 m from Durncomb's Copse SINC boundary to the north of the house and Catland/Fosters/Bottom Copses ancient woodland is shown 4.4 m to the west of the house. Durncomb's Copse SINC is designated 1B, other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving. The local planning authority has a statutory responsibility to protect these protected species and irreplaceable habitats.

A preliminary ecological appraisal is required, to include an internal inspection of the loft, as well as a search for badger setts on the property and within the woodlands, to ensure that no bats or badgers will be harmed by this proposal.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. The most appropriate enhancements should be recommended in the ecological appraisal report.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist