

Ecology response for F/22/94436 20A HIGH STREET, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EA

Construction of 3no. two-bedroom terraced dwellings with ancillary amenity space and parking, following demolition of existing disused buildings

Gary Osmond

4/5/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by Dr Stefan Bodnar (April 2023). In the introduction the report refers to *Two barns were subject to a pre- determinative bat survey at Land on the east of School Lane, Wadshelf, Chesterfield, S42 7BY*. I expect that this is simply a copy and pasting error, however it should be corrected. The extensive photos are very helpful to show potential bat roost features, particularly in B2.

There are HBIC records of hedgehogs and bats very close to this site in addition to the records available on the Magic database.

The four buildings were classified as having negligible bat roost potential although bat roost features were present. Bats are highly mobile and are definitely present in the area. Please could you add the following informative:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

There was no evidence of breeding birds in the building, but birds were noted on site and there was vegetation which may provide suitable habitat for breeding birds on site.

Precautionary working methods for hedgehogs and nesting birds will be required and can be conditioned.

Vegetation clearance must be done outside of nesting bird season (which is between March and August inclusive) (and with regard to hedgehogs).

If it is necessary to clear vegetation within bird nesting season or hedgehog hibernation season it can only be done immediately after a breeding bird check check by a suitably qualified ecologist. If an active nest is found, work must stop and the nest must be protected from disturbance with a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Hibernating hedgehogs must be considered when clearing vegetation. They can hibernate between October and April depending on the weather and disturbing them during hibernation may affect their ability to survive the winter. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) must be contacted for advice if hedgehogs are found on site.

The invasive bamboo noted on site will require specialist treatment for eradication before any works commence on site to ensure that it does not spread due to construction activities. Although bamboo is not listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it can grow through

pavement and foundations of buildings and is difficult to eradicate once buildings are present on site.

Two externally mounted sparrow terraces and two externally mounted bat boxes were recommended as biodiversity enhancements, however built-in swift nest boxes/bricks or bat boxes/bricks are preferred, as they do not require maintenance and cannot fall off. Three of each box/brick should be located on site, two per dwelling.

The current site has a large amount of green infrastructure and hedgehog habitat which would be eliminated by this proposal. Additional hedgehog habitat should be included on site along with hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) in any closed board fencing to allow free movement of small mammals through the site.

Any landscaping must include flowering plants to attract pollinators including night scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats.

Pervious macadam is proposed for part of the paving, but the permeability of the paving of the parking spaces is not clear as only paviours are specified in this area, and areas of p.c. paving (needs clarification) is shown in the rear gardens. Bollard lights are proposed in the site plan. Any external lighting should comply with the latest guidance in the Bat Conservation Trust/Institute of Lighting Designers best practice guidelines. These are available to download from the Bat Conservation Trust website (www.bats.org.uk) on the the buildings, planning and development/lighting web page.

A surface water drainage plan will be required, to be supported with infiltration testing results if soakaways are proposed. The site is located approximately 180 m from the River Hamble and must comply with EBC policy DM 6. As the DAS states that the site is approximately 0.58 ha (between 0.5 and 1.0 ha) it should include two forms of naturalised filtration rather than just permeable paving.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist