

Ecology response amended for F/23/95106 52 ESTRIDGE CLOSE, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8FN

Construction of 1no. three-bedroom detached dwelling with associated landscaping and parking

Clare Martin

8/6/23

To clarify, my main objection is that development so close to the stream would have a detrimental impact on the watercourse. I don't think a dwelling and parking spaces can be added to this very constrained site while maintaining an 8 m buffer from the top of the bank of the watercourse. In addition, sufficient information has not been provided to demonstrate no impact on protected species such as bats, hedgehogs or slow worms. Biodiversity net gain and a surface water drainage plan must also be provided.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

7/6/23

I object to this proposal because the new building is proposed to be located approximately 4 m from the river/watercourse along the southern boundary of the site. The proposed rear patio would be even closer. It is not acceptable to allow development within 4 m of a watercourse. A buffer of at least 8 m is required. This proposal would cause a negative impact to the watercourse in both the construction and operational phases.

This watercourse runs into Hungerford Bottom/Pilands Wood (Upper) SINCE. It is designated EA Main River on the eGIS map and eventually drains into the protected waters of the River Hamble.

The Flood Risk Statement by Gurney Consulting Engineers (April 2023) states that *the water course will form part of the rear garden to the property and the occupiers will be encouraged to maintain and keep it in a serviceable condition*. This would be difficult to monitor and enforce.

An existing foul drain will need to be diverted to enable this development, which could impact the watercourse during the construction phase and if leaks were to occur.

There are records of hedgehogs and bats very close to this site and a record of slow worms in the vicinity.

If this proposal were to be permitted, any development including patios and parking spaces would need to be at least 8 m from the watercourse, measured from the top of the bank.

Along the boundary of this plot with number 53 the distance from the pavement to the watercourse is only 16 m, so I don't think a house and car parking spaces would be able to fit in this space. A CEMP would be required, to include precautions to prevent pollution of the watercourse from sediment, fuel and chemical spills, and a precautionary working method to protect hedgehogs. A wildlife sensitive lighting plan would be required, avoiding light at night during construction and maintaining a dark corridor along the watercourse and trees to the south of the property. Any closed board fencing would require hedgehog holes (minimum 13 x 13 cm) at the base boards to allow free passage of small mammals through the garden. A surface water drainage plan and biodiversity enhancements would also be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist