

Ecology response for F/23/95155 Land adjacent to 52 The Crossways

Construction of [1.no](#) 4-bedroom dwelling

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I have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal report by Aluco Ecology (April 2023). Photos in the ecology report show a large stand of bamboo in the garden and lights mounted along the fence. The bamboo is an invasive non-native plant and must not be allowed to spread. It should be cordoned off during construction so it is not accidentally spread by soil carried on diggers.

The garden habitats are considered to be of value within the zone of influence to bat populations. Therefore, external lighting should be avoided unless required for safety reasons, and then only wildlife sensitive lighting should be used. Further information can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website.

To protect small mammals which may move through the site a precautionary working method must be used. *Any excavation works required within the development will be covered over night to prevent and animals, nocturnal mammals such as hedgehogs and badgers falling in and becoming trapped. Alternatively, a suitable ramp should be provided (at night) ...to allow any trapped animals to escape.*

Any new closed board fencing should have hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) cut into the base boards to allow free passage of small mammals through the gardens.

*Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (ie between Sept-end Feb), cutting to 10cm above ground level in areas where reptile habitat is present. Small amounts of nesting bird habitat may be able to be cut during the active nesting season only where it is thoroughly checked by a qualified ecologist and the vegetation is not extensive. Contractors should be made aware of the potential (for nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians or hedgehogs) when works begin. One habitat pile will be created to enhance the site boundaries for reptiles and amphibians.*

Recommendations for biodiversity enhancement include a bat box mounted under the eaves on the south-eastern elevation and bird nest boxes under the eaves on the north-western elevation. Since this is a new-build dwelling, built-in bat and bird boxes such as (bat bricks and swift bricks) are preferred, as they do not require maintenance and cannot fall off.

The garden should be enhanced with native deciduous trees and shrubs and wildlife friendly planting. This would include night scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats and flowering plants that attract other pollinators, and plants which produce fruit and seeds for birds.

I have reviewed the Drainage Technical Note by The Civil Engineering Practice (April 2023). A trial pit was checked but no infiltration took place due to impermeable clay soils. Surface water drainage will discharge at a restricted rate to the public surface water sewer at the south of the site. A permeable paving system is proposed to provide attenuation for a 1 in 100-year storm event including 45% for predicted effects of future climate change. The permeable paving will mitigate any pollution risk from the runoff from the residential roof and driveway. A drainage maintenance schedule has also been provided.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist