

Ecology response for F/23/95453 SITE OF RAMCREST, LOWFORD HILL, BURSLEDON

Replacement dwelling

Summer Sharpe

17/7/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (April 2021). The report states that the bungalow had negligible bat roost suitability and no signs of bats were found. According to the DAS, most of the building was demolished in 2022 as permitted under H/20/89187. Therefore, although the PRA report is only considered valid for 12 months, this only related to whether bats were using the existing building. The recommendations for the new building are not subject to a time limitation.

The recommendations for biodiversity enhancements, precautionary vegetation clearance, lighting, and eradication of invasive montbretia are all sound and can be conditioned. The proposed enhancements are shown in Figure 4 and include an integrated bat box on the southern elevation, a woodstone bird box on the western elevation and a swift box/brick on the northern elevation.

The location of the montbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*) to be eradicated is shown in Figure 3. Information about bat sensitive exterior lighting is explained in 5.2.3 and 5.6.3. Any additional vegetation clearance that has not yet been done must be done either outside of the nesting bird season or if this is not possible, then only immediately after a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist, as explained in 5.3.2.

A surface water drainage statement is required. This must provide details of the existing surface water drainage arrangements and any proposed changes to the existing system, including accommodations for the additional volume of surface water drainage due to the larger roof area of the new dwelling.

The applicant may also find the following information helpful to enhance the garden for bats and other wildlife.

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

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