

Ecology response for F/23/95510 BURSLEDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SCHOOL ROAD, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8BU

Conversion of Methodist church hall to 3no. 2 bedroom dwellings, with associated parking, amenity space, elevational alterations including insertion of rooflights and provision of raised decked areas.

Clare Martin

25/7/23

I have reviewed the Bat Survey Report by Peach Ecology (V1, updated July 2023).

The building was assessed to have high bat roost potential and three emergence/re-entry surveys were done in August and September 2021. Although bats were recorded in the area, no bats emerged from or re-entered the building. An update walkover was done in July 2023, which determined that conditions had not changed. There were still no signs of bats (droppings, feeding remains, staining) so it is not likely that bats are using this building. The potential roost features are still present.

Before the start of any works on site a toolbox talk on bats and areas of the building with potential bat roost features and precautionary working methods must be given to all staff by a suitably qualified ecologist.

During construction, any works to the roof such as installation of dormer windows and roof lights or works near a potential bat roost feature must be done under ecological supervision.

Two new crevice features for bats will be installed under the south-facing eaves, supervised by an ecologist.

As enhancements, a bird box for sparrows and one for swifts will be located under the eaves at a suitable location. Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight.

(<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>)

Any vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season which runs from March – August inclusive or if this is not possible, then under ecological supervision.

The southern boundary will be planted with shrubs or native hedgerow species to create a wildlife corridor at this boundary measuring at least 30m in length and compensate for loss of vegetation elsewhere on site.

A new low hedge (at least 20 m long) will be created on the northern boundary, privet and native species such as Wilson's honeysuckle are acceptable, box is not encouraged due to

the prevalence of box blight. Native bulbs planted at the base of this hedge at a density of 10-20 per m² will provide additional flowers for pollinators.

A CEMP is required to ensure that no sediment or pollutants enter the ditch/swale on the southern side of the site.

Exterior lighting should be avoided unless required for safety reasons only, it must be wildlife sensitive, on a timer or a motion sensitive switch so that is only on when needed, point downwards, and not shine on any potential bat roost features or on vegetation. Roof lights and windows must be shaded at night so that light spill from the windows does not affect bats.

I have reviewed the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy by Aqua Callidus Consulting (issue 3, June 2023). The existing surface water drainage system, with the existing swale on the south side of the site, is recommended to be used, supplemented with water butts to intercept roof runoff.

Floor levels will be raised, and *it is recommended that occupants subscribe to EA Flood Warning Direct (FWD) service so that they may receive flood alerts and warnings and could relocate their cars out of the car park ahead of any flood*, which would be an exceedance/residual risk event.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist