

Ecology response amended for H/23/95072 1 OAKWOOD ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1LW

Replace existing external boundary wall with fence on both sides (Oakwood Road and Hiltingbury Road), dropped kerb, erect driveway gate and pedestrian gate (Amended H/22/93248)

Rachael Morris

21/8/23

As this is now a retrospective application the only parts of the previous response which can still be acted upon are biodiversity enhancements. The applicant should consider where habitat for hedgehogs, stage beetles, bats, and nesting birds can be created on the property using the links in the previous response of 25/7/23.. Hedgehog openings must be installed into the fencing in at least two areas to allow free movement of hedgehogs through the property and into neighbouring gardens. The southern and eastern boundaries would be most appropriate as they look more sheltered and do not open onto roads.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

25/7/23

There are records of hedgehogs, bats and stag beetles near this site. Site photos show there are trees and possibly shrubs which be suitable habitat for nesting birds, bats and invertebrates such as stag beetles.

The applicant is reminded that, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (section 1), it is an offence to remove, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. Trees and scrub are likely to contain nesting birds between 1st March and 31st August inclusive.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Any closed board fencing must have hedgehog openings (13 x 13 cm minimum) in the baseboards to allow free passage of small mammals through the gardens.

During construction any excavations or open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with a small mammal escape ramp (a rough board slanted at a shallow angle) to prevent hedgehogs from becoming trapped.

If hedgehogs are found, they should not be handled but be left to move away on their own to a place of shelter. *If a hedgehog is found during development and/or there are welfare*

*concerns, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted for advice and guidance on 01584 890 801.*

Further information is available at:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/developers-1.pdf>

Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site. Replacement habitat can include log piles, leaf litter, dead wood and scrub. Hedgehog houses can also be made or purchased.

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

Any stag beetles found during construction must not be harmed and must be left to move to a place of safety on their own.

Biodiversity enhancement is required.

Additional information is available at:

<https://ptes.org/9-top-ways-to-help-stag-beetles-in-your-garden/>

<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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