

Ecology response for C/23/95647 BISHOPSTOKE MEMORIAL HALL, RIVERSIDE, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6LQ

Demolition of existing memorial hall, parish office and storage shed this will also encompass the hedge line adjacent the building.

Rachael Morris

11/9/23

The site is across the road (approximately 20 m) from the River Itchen SAC and SSSI. It is in a red great crested newt impact risk zone with a record of great crested newts across the road approximately 150 m from the site.

The tree line/hedge line on the western boundary of the site and the buildings are proposed to be removed. Although it is not likely that great crested newts would cross Church Road/Riverside, the impact of this work on great crested newt terrestrial habitat must be assessed before determination.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment report by Hampshire Ecological Services (June 2023). The Memorial Hall has been assessed as having moderate bat roost suitability and requires two bat activity surveys, at least two weeks apart during the survey season, which usually is considered to end at the end of September. The two surveys have only recently been commissioned and are in progress (personal communication with John Poland of Hampshire Ecological Services, 11/9/23) however due to survey and reporting constraints, the survey report is not likely to be available until October. As the presence of protected species is a material condition, the application will not be able to be determined until this survey data has been reported.

The other two buildings, the Parish Office and the shed were assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability however the shed must be demolished carefully by hand due to its construction and the inability of the surveyor to access the interior.

It is not clear whether the trees proposed to be removed have been checked for potential bat roost features, so this needs to be clarified.

Due to the proximity to the River Itchen SAC an HRA screening and a CEMP will be required prior to determination. The CEMP must include protective measures against pollution including surface water drainage, dust and air pollution. The roof of the Memorial Hall is constructed of asbestos cement sheets, and other asbestos has been identified on site so the asbestos removal procedures will also need to be included in the CEMP.

The PRA report states that *all of the trees, shrubs and buildings on site have the potential to support nesting birds during the breeding season*. If demolition is not done outside of the bird nesting season (normally considered to be late February through August inclusive) then a breeding bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required immediately prior to the start of work. If any

active nests are found, they must be protected from disturbance by a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

The lighting guidance outlined in the PRA report section 5.2.2 and 5.6.2 must be followed during the demolition, construction and operational phases.

Mitigation and biodiversity enhancement recommendations will be submitted with the updated bat survey report once the survey data is complete.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist