

Ecology response for F/23/95608 7 VALLEY ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1GQ

Construction of 1No. four bedroom detached dwelling, including carport and amenity space

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There are records of bats, common toads and hedgehogs very close to this site, and nesting swifts in the wider vicinity. The site plan by Arc Architecture (May 2023) shows that this proposal would require removing two existing trees without replacements being planted on site but these trees are not shown or described in the Tree Report by KJF Consultancy Ltd (July 2023). The tree report states that the trees do not contain any features used by bats and no bird nests were noted at the time of the survey (30 June 2023). Information is required on the trees proposed to be removed and replacement trees must be shown in the landscaping plan.

Any vegetation removal must be done outside of nesting bird season or if this is not possible then only immediately after a check for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.

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.

Hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) must be included in the baseboards of any closed board fences to allow the free passage of small mammals through the garden.

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>

A surface water drainage plan is required. If soakaways are proposed this must be supported with infiltration testing results to demonstrate that a soakaway will be successful in this location. A soakaway must be located at least 5 m from any built structure and not within the root protection zones of trees.

Landscaping must include strong perimeter planting using native species and flowering plants to attract pollinators. The site plan shows a planting area in front of the proposed

bike store with the open shed doors almost touching a hedgerow. This would make it impossible to get bikes in and out of the shed. Either the locations of these features should be re-assessed, or the bike shed should be rotated so that the opening is not obstructed.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. (<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/putting-up-your-box>)

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> )

Additional information is available at:

<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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