

Additional Ecology response for H/23/95898 46 DEAN ROAD, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7JE

Proposed 2.1 metre high garden fence to southern boundary adjacent to Dean Road

Claire Campbell-Best

2/10/23

I have reviewed the site visit photos. Removal of this hedgerow would decrease habitat for nesting birds and hedgehogs. It is not likely that great crested newts or slow worms would be using this area. Bird boxes such a sparrow terrace or a swift nest box would be appropriate mitigation for loss of this hedgerow. They can be mounted on the house and positioned according to the guidelines below:

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> ). Bird nest boxes should also be sheltered from prevailing rain, wind and strong sunlight and it is helpful for there to be a clear flight path to the box. Further information is available on the RSPB website, under wildlife advice, making and placing a bird box.

Hedgehog holes in the new fence, and an area of the garden with replacement shelter for hedgehogs are also required as mitigation and described in the previous ecology response.

An appropriate biodiversity enhancement would be planting flowering plants to attract pollinators on both sides of the fence.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

19/9/23

This site is in an amber great crested newt impact risk zone, and there are records of slow worms and bats nearby. To determine whether any further survey will be required I need to review current photos of any area which will be affected by this proposal.

If hedgehogs are using the site they would be sheltering under dense vegetation or within long grass, dead leaves or piles of dead wood. These areas should be cleared by hand, not using a digger, to allow animals time to escape. Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site. The British Hedgehog Society recommends that *Areas should be cleared on rotation*

*with scrubby patches left to provide nesting habitat and cover. If this is not possible, piles of dead wood and brash piles can be created in other areas around the site to mitigate for the removal of suitable nesting sites. These can be created behind hedges or out of the way for smaller developments with limited space.* 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/>

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.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required.

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.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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