

Ecology response for F/23/95867 The Site is called the Old Fairground, Bursledon Road, SO19 0NL

The construction of a 3-bedroom detached house with associated parking and landscaping to replace an existing 3-bedroom mobile home.

Summer Sharpe

11/10/23

The most recent aerial photo on Grid Reference Finder (Apple Maps) shows that there is currently no vegetation surrounding the existing mobile homes on site and no habitat for protected species in the zone of impact for this proposal or in the paved area surrounding the site.

The property is in a green great crested newt impact risk zone but there is no potential habitat for great crested newts which would be affected by this proposal. There are records of common lizards, slow worms and adders near this site, but these are separated from the site by several large roads which form barriers to dispersal. There are also records of bats, badgers and hedgehogs in the area.

A built-in bat box and swift nest box would be appropriate biodiversity enhancements. Planting flowering plants for pollinators in the landscaped area, especially night-scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats would also be appropriate.

Rainwater harvesting has been mentioned in the planning statement. More details on surface water drainage must be provided, but these can be conditioned.

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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