

Additional Ecology response Nov 2023 for H/23/95588 HOE MOOR HOUSE, DODWELL LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 1AB

Proposed single storey side extension and new vehicular entrance gates

Claire Campbell-Best

2/11/23

The agent has provided a statement titled Ecology Appraisal which was produced by Coast Architecture Ltd, not by an ecologist. There is no evidence that the person who wrote this statement has any ecological background or training.

As requested in my response of 23/10/23:

A preliminary ecological appraisal will not be required but a **precautionary working method statement** to protect small animals such as terrestrial great crested newts, dormice and hedgehogs will be required and can be conditioned. Rhododendron is invasive and must not be allowed to spread into the wild.

This means that the person completing the statement must have an understanding of the legal protection, habitat requirements and behaviour of these species to be able to avoid disturbance or harm to them should they occur on site. The document states that *if any small animals are found during these works they will be carefully removed to a safe location within the application site.*

This is not acceptable, great crested newts and dormice must not be handled by anyone without specific training and experience. An ecological consultant would be best placed to write an appropriate precautionary working method statement.

The second statement, *the rhododendrons that are near to the entrance will be maintained so as not to become invasive and cause any interference with other flora and fauna*, is less of a problem. The main point is that rhododendron should not be allowed to spread off site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

23/10/23

I have reviewed the site photos and agree that the proposed extension would not interfere with the roof, so bats are not a concern with this proposal. The area to the side of the extension is a gravel driveway and I don't see any potential great crested newt, dormouse, or hedgehog habitat in this area of the property. The area where the entrance gates are proposed is vegetated with what appears to be rhododendron and closely mown lawn. A preliminary ecological appraisal will not be required but precautionary working method statement to protect small animals such as terrestrial great crested newts, dormice and hedgehogs will be required and can be conditioned. Rhododendron is invasive and must not be allowed to spread into the wild.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist.

19/9/23

There are records of bats, great crested newts, dormice, and hedgehogs very close to this site. It is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts.

A preliminary ecological appraisal will be required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. The most appropriate enhancements can be recommended by the ecological consultant who does the preliminary ecological appraisal.

The following enhancements can be considered:

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](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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist