

Ecology response for F/23/96357 3 WHALESMEAD ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8HD

Erection of 1no. bungalow with parking, amenity space and access off Whalesmead Road (amended scheme to planning permission F/23/94745)

Clare Martin

24/11/23

In terms of ecology and surface water drainage there are no differences between this proposal and the previous proposal, F/23/94745. The biodiversity enhancement recommendations in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by KJF Consultancy Ltd (February 2022) include provision of 2 bee bricks, 1 swift nest box, a hedgehog nest box, and at least two hedgehog holes in the gravel boards of any closed board fences to allow free passage of small animals through the gardens.

The advice from Swift Conservation is that 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>). The proposed elevations do not show any locations suitable for a swift nest box.

Flowering plants and shrubs to attract pollinators and provide food for wildlife should be included in the garden and will provide biodiversity enhancement.

The site photos show some opportunities for nesting birds in the garden. Any vegetation that might support nesting birds must only be cleared outside of bird nesting season (March through August inclusive) or after a check for nesting birds. Birds sometimes nest in sheds and summerhouses. These were mentioned in the PEA report but not described or photographed. 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.

The proposed SuDS plan by ARC Architecture Ltd. (October 2023) states that alternatives to a soakaway, such as an attenuation tank may be required. This was already agreed in discharging condition 4 (DC/23/96108) for F/23/94745. The Foul and Surface Water Drainage Report, the Drainage Layout, Exceedance Flows plan and Construction Details by CGS Civils (September 2023) shows a cellular attenuation storage tank wrapped in impermeable membrane at the northern end of the site (under the drive) as infiltration tests have shown that the soil is not permeable. This drainage report has not been included in the current application, but this solution is acceptable. A drainage condition can be avoided by including this information with the application documents.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist