

Ecology response for F/23/96419 WEST END COTTAGE, SWAYTHLING ROAD, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO18 3HT

Erection of [1.no](#) 3-bedroom dwelling with associated parking, bin/bike storage & boundary treatments.

Rachael Morris

7/12/23

I have reviewed the amended site plan as proposed (Rev A) and can see the proposed location of a new soakaway below the new permeable driveway, hedgehog holes in the close board fencing, a bat block in the south east gable and a swift block in the north west gable. The bin store appears to have a planted green roof (although this has not been labelled).

Subject to the precautionary working methods listed below, which can be conditioned, I have no further ecology or surface water drainage concerns.

Vegetation must not be cut during bird nesting season. This is usually from the end of February through August. If this is not possible then a nesting bird check must be made by a suitably qualified ecologist within 24 hours before start of work. If there are any active nests, they must be protected from disturbance with a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Any excavations and open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with a slanted rough board as a small mammal escape ramp.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

27/11/23

There are records of badgers, bats, swifts, and stag beetles in this area and the site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. Although the Design and Access Statement states that the majority of the site is tarmac there appears to be vegetation remaining around the perimeter of the site. The proposed site entrance and gate appears to cut through the root protection zone of at least two trees and one car parking space is proposed in the root protection zone of two trees on the southeastern boundary.

A precautionary working method for nesting birds, badgers and stag beetles will be required. Vegetation must not be cut during bird nesting season. This is usually from the end of February through August. If this is not possible then a nesting bird check must be made by a suitably qualified ecologist within 24 hours before start of work. If there are any active nests, they must be protected from disturbance with a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Any excavations and open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with a slanted rough board as a small mammal escape ramp.

Any closed board fencing must contain at least two holes (15x 15 cm minimum) in the baseboards to allow free passage of small mammals.

A surface water drainage plan is required. Given the constrained nature of this site, the surface water drainage strategy must be provided before determination to ensure that it is feasible.

Biodiversity net gain must be provided. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this building. The bike and bin stores could be designed with green roofs to provide more planting for pollinators on site.

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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