

Ecology response for F/23/96537 UNIT 2 AND 3 AND 5 AND 6, WELLINGTON PARK, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2QU

Erection of galvanised steel palisade fencing on South-West boundary.

Rachael Morris

21/12/23

The vegetation on site has potential to support nesting birds. There are records of bats, stag beetles and hedgehogs in the wider area.

It is not clear whether any trees would need to be felled to facilitate the fence installation. If trees are proposed to be removed, they must be checked for potential bat roost features by a suitably qualified ecologist. This will involve ground level survey but may require additional bat survey work if features are found. This must be done before determination as the presence of protected species is a material consideration.

Any vegetation removal to facilitate the fencing must be cleared outside of bird nesting season (March-August) or if this is not possible, then only within 24 hours after a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist. Any active nests must be protected from disturbance by a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

The fence must be permeable to hedgehogs, with at least 2 openings (13 x 13 cm) at the base along each elevation to allow free movement of small animals across the site. Biodiversity enhancement is required. This could include log piles for stag beetles or planting additional flowering plants to attract pollinators.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist