

Ecology response for F/22/93962 LARKBY, KEW LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DD

Construction of a replacement dwelling following the demolition of the existing dwelling with associated landscape works.

Rachael Morris

16/11/22

I have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal report by Cherry Tree Ecology (September 2022). The report identified two bat roosts in the house and one in the outbuilding with no roosts in the garage. A low impact bat class licence will be required but can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted. A medium breeding population of slow worms and a low breeding population of grass snakes were also recorded. The trees and hedgerows support bird foraging and nesting habitat.

There are also records of hedgehogs and swifts near the site.

The invasive plants rhododendron and cotoneaster were identified on site. Cherry laurel was also recorded, which can be invasive, although not a Schedule 9 plant. The planting plan is appropriate, but rhododendron, cotoneaster and cherry laurel should not be allowed to spread into the wild. Care must be taken to ensure that garden clippings do not spread into the adjacent SINC.

The mitigation and enhancement recommendations are all appropriate and can be conditioned. If it is possible to include a swift brick/nest box instead of one of the sparrow terraces, that could be helpful to the local population of swifts. The ecological consultant will need to determine whether appropriate conditions for a swift box are available.

Rainwater harvesting is planned using an underground storage tank. Surface water drainage is shown on the Proposed Floor Plan by JPA (October 2022). To the west of the proposed garage there are surface water drains that appear to interfere with the RPA of a Magnolia tree. As rainwater harvesting is proposed to be used to water the garden it may be helpful to have an additional underground tank located near the raised vegetable beds.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist