

Ecology response for F/23/96532 34 MALLARDS ROAD, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8EJ

Construction of 2no. 1 bedroom flats and 1no. 2 bedroom house to the rear following demolition of existing 3 bedroom bungalow.

Clare Martin

18/1/24

There are records of bats, swifts, and stag beetles very close to this site. There are records of hedgehogs in the wider area.

The Google maps street view photo of this bungalow shows several gaps in the roof tiles which could be used by roosting bats and many trees on site which would be impacted by the development. Google Earth time slider shows that in July 2021 the site was vegetated with trees. The photo dated January 2022 is not clear but may show a cleared site. The aerial photo of the site on Grid Reference Finder (using Apple maps, date not available) shows that the plot has been cleared to bare earth other than the existing bungalow.

British Standard 42020 states that a retrospective impact assessment is required when it is clear that habitats on a site have been cleared in advance of an assessment. The Environment Act 2021 states that if the biodiversity value of a site has been reduced after 30 January 2020 unless it was under already granted planning permission, the baseline biodiversity value is taken to be the value of the site before the activity. In this case it would be the vegetated site shown in the July 2021 aerial photos.

I object to this proposal on the grounds that it is not possible to provide biodiversity net gain in line with local and national planning policies. These proposals would also represent an overdevelopment of the site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist