

Ecology response 27 4 26 for H/26/101095 95 CHURCH ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6DT

Single storey extension to the rear and dropped kerb

Gina Aftanas

27/4/26

I have reviewed the site photos. The width of the existing driveway already appears to be quite large. It is not clear why additional hedgerow would need to be removed, unless it has already been removed during the installation of the new driveway (part retrospective application).

If this proposal for the removal of additional hedgerow be permitted, compensation for the loss of a small amount of the hedgerow can be provided by planting a tree in the front corner and additional flowering plants in the area shown closer to the house. The tree should not be a conifer, but one with flowers and fruits. The RHS planting for pollinators lists of trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials should be used ([RHS Plants for Pollinators / RHS](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/flowers/uses/uses/for-pollinators)). A flowering lawn mix can be used for the rest of the front areas.

I don't see any obvious potential habitat features for bats in the photos provided. Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

The precautionary working methods for newts and hedgehogs outlined in the previous response must be used to prevent harm to these species if they are present during the works.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

21/4/26

More information needed

Ecology

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, badgers and hedgehogs near this site.

I have reviewed the aerial photos of the house available on Google maps. Part of an existing hedgerow would need to be removed to extend the width of the driveway. This hedgerow is functionally connected to Breach Sling Copse and Stoke Common Copse woodlands, but it ends at the current driveway so removing it would not create a gap in the existing hedge. Additional planting is shown in the amended detail site plan without proposed planting

specifications. Planting additional flowering and fruiting shrubs with value for wildlife could compensate for the loss of the section of hedgerow to be removed to widen the driveway. The planting specifications can be agreed before determination or can be conditioned.

The area that would be affected by the rear extension appears to be hard standing and closely mown lawn. The proposed extension would cut into the roof void.

To determine whether a bat survey will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of all areas of the roof, fascia, soffits (standing next to building and looking upwards), flashings, hanging tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings.

Photos of any areas of the garden affected by the proposal are also required.

The following precautionary working methods must be followed:

Hedge removal

Both nesting birds and hedgehogs must be considered. Nesting bird season is from the beginning of March to the end of August. Hedgehogs typically hibernate between November and March depending on the temperature. Since this is such a small amount of hedge next to an active driveway it is not likely to be used by nesting birds or hedgehogs, so a two-stage cut is the most practical way to ensure that wildlife will not be harmed. The hedge to be removed must be checked for nesting birds before cutting to 30 cm on the first day. On the second day it must be checked for hedgehogs and then the rest can be removed. If nesting birds or hedgehogs are found, work must stop and an ecologist must be called for advice.

It is illegal to disturb nesting birds or their nests, so work cannot progress until the chicks have fledged and left the nest. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society helpline is available on their web page [The British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#).

General precautions

All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.

Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp.

No fires can be lit on site.

Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Any chemicals and fuels must be stored carefully and away from potential wildlife habitat.

Any animals such as hedgehogs found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

Biodiversity enhancements

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. A bat box and a swift nest box may be appropriate for this building.

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](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/>

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

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Ecologist