

Ecology response 26 5 26 for H/26/101181 CHERRY COURT, SALTERNS LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DH

First floor extension over garage
Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

26/5/26

I have reviewed the recent site photos which show that the works are in progress, the entire garage has been removed, and the ecology advice from the previous consultation has not been taken into account. Vegetation at the rear of the house which could shelter great crested newts in their terrestrial phase appears to have been removed or disturbed. Part of the structure has been demolished, leaving openings into the roof and spaces within the walls which could be used by roosting bats. Whilst the building may have had negligible bat roost potential in 2023, as a result of the demolition works visible in the photos the bat roost potential appears to have increased. The main part of the roof appears to be new, however this has now been opened up at the gable end creating new bat roosting opportunities during the active bat season. An update bat report (PRA) and ecological enhancements for bats and nesting birds will be required. This information must be provided before determination as the presence of protected species is a material consideration.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

14/5/26

Previous applications for this site include F/23/96152, F/24/97376 and H/25/100201. The site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts; however this proposal would not affect any potential habitat for great crested newts. There are records of nesting swifts, bats and water shrews nearby.

The Ecological Appraisal and Bat Roost Assessment Report by FPCR Environment and Design (September 2023) was submitted for applications F/23/96152 and F/24/97376. The report assessed the property as having negligible bat roost potential at that time. As this report is now more than two years out of date and the extension roof would intersect with the main house roof, an update bat report will be required.

A precautionary working method must be used to prevent harm to wildlife that could be using this site. It should include:

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 found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

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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