

Ecology response 30 7 26 for H/26/101609 33 VERDON AVENUE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HW

Single storey rear extensions following the demolition of the existing conservatory and replacement of existing detached garage with annexe

Rachael Morris

30/7/26

I have reviewed the site photos. Whilst there are one or two areas near the existing conservatory with gaps where bats could find some temporary shelter, it is not likely that these would be used as longer term roosts due to light and lack of thermal stability. The area of the garden that would be affected is existing hardstanding. The existing garage has a corrugated metal roof which would not provide suitable habitat for bats.

There are vines growing over the garage and between the garage and a nearby tree which could provide habitat for nesting birds. The vines appear to be ivy and possibly Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) or false Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus inserta*) both of which are invasive non-native species and must not be allowed to spread into the wild. Further information is available at [Invasive non-native plants | RHS Advice](#). These species can be disposed of as normal green waste or buried on site.

Please could you add the following informatives 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>.

Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August). If this is not possible then vegetation can be cleared only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of works. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

The area around the garage must be cleared by hand. In the unlikely event that slow worms or hedgehogs are on site any animals found must not be handled and be allowed to move away to an area of safety on their own.

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.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

8/7/26

There are records of slow worms, hedgehogs and bats in this area. To determine whether any surveys 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.

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/brick and planting for pollinators may be appropriate for this site.

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>)

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.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist