

Ecology response for O/26/101904 CHERRY TREES, KANES HILL, SOUTHAMPTON, SO19 6AH

Outline application: Erection of 1.no 3-bedroom dwelling with associated parking following the demolition of existing outbuildings. Access from Kanes Hill to rear of 'Cherry Trees'. (All matters reserved)

Rachael Morris

2/9/26

Summary:

Additional photos of the wooden outbuilding are required.

Informatives required for bats, invasive non-native plants, nesting birds and hedgehogs.

Vegetation clearance can only be done in October and November or immediately after a check for nesting birds and hedgehogs by a suitably qualified ecologist, outside of hedgehog hibernation season.

Ecological enhancements for bats, nesting birds and hedgehogs will be required.

Any exterior lighting should be minimal and follow wildlife sensitive lighting guidelines.

Discussion:

I have reviewed the site photos.

The garage has a large window at the back and is quite light, so not suitable for roosting bats. It has a flat roof with well-sealed fascia boards, so it is not likely that bats would be using this space. A bat survey will not be required, but 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>.

There is some vegetation at the front of the garage which could be non-native invasive species, it looks like there might be bamboo and possibly montbretia, which must be prevented from spreading into neighbour's gardens and into the wild. Further information is available at [How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK](#).

The garden consists of close mown lawn with shrubs along the boundaries. The wooden outbuilding may have potential to be used by bats, so additional photos of the exterior and interior are required. The shrubs and wooden outbuilding would have potential to be used by nesting birds and must only be cleared outside of nesting bird season, which is usually from the end of February through the end of August.

The shrubs would also have potential to shelter hedgehogs so must only be cleared when hedgehogs are active and not hibernating.

If hedgehogs are using the site they would be sheltering under dense vegetation or within long grass, dead leaves or piles of dead wood. These areas should be cleared by hand, not

using a digger, to allow animals time to escape. Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site.

The British Hedgehog Society recommends that *Areas should be cleared on rotation with scrubby patches left to provide nesting habitat and cover. If this is not possible, piles of dead wood and brash piles can be created in other areas around the site to mitigate for the removal of suitable nesting sites. These can be created behind hedges or out of the way for smaller developments with limited space.* Replacement habitat can include log piles, leaf litter, dead wood and scrub. Hedgehog houses can also be made or purchased.

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

The nesting bird season and hedgehog hibernation seasons leave only September and October as months when neither of these species would be affected by vegetation clearance. If this is not possible then the vegetation must be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist for nesting birds before removal. Hibernating hedgehogs are more difficult to find, therefore clearance between November through March should definitely be avoided.

New exterior lighting should be avoided, but if necessary for security purposes, then the latest updated lighting guidance note (GN08/23) should be followed. This is available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](https://theilp.org.uk/Guidance%20Note%208%20Bats%20and%20Artificial%20Lighting%20-%20Illumination%20Guidance%20Note%20GN08%2F23.pdf).

Ecological enhancements will be required in accord with DM 11. 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:

[Building a resilient garden for a changing climate / RHS Gardening](https://www.rhs.org.uk/building-a-resilient-garden-for-a-changing-climate)

<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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

1/9/26

There are records of bats, hedgehogs and badgers near this site.

To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of all areas of the outbuildings proposed to be demolished: 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 to determine whether there is habitat for protected species which would be affected by the development.

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