

Ecology response amended for H/23/96605 FOX FIELDS, DODWELL LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 1AD

Two storey side and first floor side extensions to include front dormer windows, single storey rear extension and elevational alterations

Claire Campbell-Best

24/1/24

The site visit photos show that areas of the rear garden could be used by hedgehogs and nesting birds. Comparing the site photos to the aerial photos, large areas of vegetation in the front garden and to the side of the house have already been removed and replaced with gravel. A tree in the rear garden appears to have been felled recently. No additional precautions will be required, other than those listed in the PRA report and in the previous ecology response (15/1/24).

Due to the size of the proposed extensions, a surface water drainage plan will be required. Since there is an existing system in place, this can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

15/1/24

This site is within a red impact risk zone for great crested newts with several ponds within 600 m of the site. There are no records of great crested newts at these ponds but there is a record at a pond approximately 680 m to the south. The ponds are all separated from the site by roads which would be barriers to dispersal. There are also records of bats and hedgehogs nearby.

A precautionary working method to protect amphibians and small mammals will be required. This can be conditioned and will involve covering excavations on site at night or fitting them with small animal escape ramps. All operatives must be briefed on procedures and recognising these species. In the unlikely event of any great crested newts being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and advice taken from the ecological consultant or from Natural England. Hedgehogs should not be handled but be allowed to move away from the area of impact on their own.

Photos are required of the areas of garden impacted by the proposed extensions to determine whether any additional precautions are needed.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (November 2023). The house has been assessed to have negligible bat roost

suitability. The biodiversity enhancements and lighting recommendations proposed in section 5.6 are appropriate and should be implemented.

The two areas of climbing plants on the eastern elevation shown in Image 4.3.1.2 could cover potential bat roost features and could be used by nesting birds. This vegetation and any other vegetation required to be removed to facilitate the building work should be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually mid-February through August inclusive). If this is not possible, then it should be removed only after a careful check by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of work. If there are any active bird nests, all work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be installed to protect the nest from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

Due to the size of the proposed extensions, additional surface water drainage capacity may be required.

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 called. 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>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist