

Ecology response for F/24/96708 60 BURSLEDON ROAD, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON,
SO30 0BY

Erection of 1no. two-bedroom detached house adjacent to existing dwelling, with associated access onto Foord Road, parking and bin/bike storage

Clare Martin

1/2/24

There are records of slow worms, common lizards and adders, badgers and bats near this site.

Site photos show vegetation on site consisting of scrub, grass and some small trees which could provide habitat suitable for nesting birds, hedgehogs, foraging and commuting bats and slow worms.

There is also vegetation including cherry laurel at the front of the site which would be removed to provide site access and parking. Local and national policies require no net loss of biodiversity on site. It is not clear whether that would be possible with this proposal.

Surface water drainage information is required before determination. If a soakaway is proposed, it needs to be located at least 5 m from any built structure. It is not clear that there is enough room for a soakaway on this site. If an existing soakaway for number 60 is located in this area it will need to be moved. If there is not an existing soakaway in use, soil percolation test results will be required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick 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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist