

Ecology response for H/24/97019 21 HOCOMBE ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5SL

Erection of detached two storey outbuilding at side (Revised scheme to H/23/96012)

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The ecology response for this application is the same as the response for the previous application H/23/96012.

There are records of bats in the area and there are a water course and woodland habitat containing mature trees along the western boundary. A 20 m woodland buffer is required for new development to avoid disturbance to the woodland. Our maps show that the existing house is only approximately 10 m from the woodland edge, so I raise an objection to the location of this building based on an insufficient buffer zone for the woodland habitat.

The watercourse/ditch is culverted along some of its length but appears to eventually flow into Hiltingbury Lakes SINIC.

If this application were to progress: The mature trees (visible in the photo of the property on Google Maps) have the potential to support nesting birds and roosting bats. A suitably qualified ecologist would need to check them for potential bat roost features. Facilitation pruning is mentioned in the Design and Access Statement. This will need to be done outside of bird nesting season (which is usually from March through August) or only immediately after a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

A CEMP will be required to ensure that the watercourse is protected from pollutants, including sediment, during construction.

Tree protection and wildlife protection measures during construction are also required.

Surface water drainage has been addressed in the Design and Access Statement with water butts and a new soakaway within the garden for the overflow.

The flood risk mitigation proposed is satisfactory (minimum FFL set & piled foundations to be used with above ground slab to retain a floodable void).

Biodiversity enhancement has been addressed by additional planting areas and a composting area towards the rear of the garden. Planting must include a wide range of flowering plants which are attractive to pollinators, and which provide a long season of flowering. Night scented flowering plants will attract moths as food for bats.

A swift nest box and a bat box would also be encouraged. These could either be built into the new building, attached to the older main house, or mature trees in the garden.

Light from the outbuilding must not be allowed to spill onto the woodland area to the west of the property so that any bats using the area will not be disturbed. 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://www.theilp.org.uk/Guidance-Note-8-Bats-and-Artificial-Lighting).

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Ecologist