

Ecology response for H/24/97077 WHITE OAKS, PROVIDENCE HILL, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8AT

Detached outbuilding to front of property

Rachael Morris

15/4/24

From the photos on Google maps the front of the house is completely devoid of vegetation and may be partially paved. The aerial photo shows some structures and the street view photo does not, so it is not clear to me whether work has already started.

Surface water drainage information must be provided with this application. The consultation response from Southern Water states that there are no public surface water sewers in the area. What is the existing surface water drainage system for the house? If there is a working soakaway for the house then it is likely that a soakaway can be used for the surface water drainage from the roof of this outbuilding, with the location to be a minimum of 5 m from any built structure. This must be provided before determination to ensure that appropriate drainage will be available on site.

I don't think construction of the outbuilding will affect habitat for protected species, however biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat box and a swift nest box may be appropriate for this site, but may need to be installed on the main house rather than on the outbuilding to achieve the aspect, elevation and flight paths needed by these species.

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>)

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/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

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