

Ecology response 16 7 24 for H/24/97543 BIRCHWOOD, ALLINGTON LANE, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3HQ

Erection of a new single storey summer house within rear garden.

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

16/7/24

I have reviewed the Proposed Ecology Plan by Vivid Design Studio (July 2024). This now contains the requested information on working method statement, location for an integrated swift nest box and bat brick and a surface water drainage strategy. The site photos show trees from the adjacent property which extend over the fence. The working method statement will also apply to nesting birds which might be using these trees.

Exterior lighting should be minimised, and no light should shine onto the bat brick or swift nest boxes on the summer house.

I have no further ecology or surface water drainage concerns.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

26/6/24

I have reviewed the site photos. The habitat appears to have low value for protected species, so no surveys will be needed, however a precautionary working method will be required. The precautionary working method should include all building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp, and no fires can be lit on site. Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

There are some shrubs and trees in the area proposed for this summer house and Vegetation affected by the proposal must be cleared outside of nesting bird season (which is usually March-August inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist must check for nesting birds no more than 24 hours before vegetation clearance.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, work must stop and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

If any great crested newts are found, they must not be disturbed, all work must stop and Natural England must be called.

19/6/24

The proposal is to locate the proposed summer house in the northwestern corner of the site.

There are records of common toads, slow worms and grass snakes on the adjacent site to the north.

This site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts.

Red (highly suitable habitat) or **Amber** (suitable habitat, likely to be present) – *When development falls into the red or amber zones on the impact risk map, developers MUST prove to their local planning authorities that their development plans pose 'no risk' to great crested newts.*

Photos of the area that would be impacted by this proposal are required to determine whether any surveys are needed.

Surface water drainage information is required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. 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>)

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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist