

Ecology response and PWM Statement – Rev A

**H/24/97241 - Householder planning
23 Hardwick Way, Hamble**

We are writing to respond to the comments by the Ecology Officer received 7th June 2024. We are keen to provide sufficient confidence to the council and to satisfy any concerns. With this we have also included more photo evidence of the roof and garage in question. We have also offered some ecology enhancement options that we will incorporate into the scheme.

Ecology Response

- The soffits and fascia's are all in good condition, appropriately sealed, with no gaps – the roof is very new and re-felted and looks to be in near new condition from inside and out. Guttering was inspected and repaired recently. No gaps or possible entry for bat roosts exist.
- As garden clearance and preparation is ongoing soil is unavoidably being moved around the garden and often piled up. We have highly experienced landscape gardeners working on site and every effort is taken to keep the plant life healthy. The soil in question was removed soon after the pictures were taken.
- The existing outbuilding has already been partly de-constructed due to being dangerously rotten in places and damaged by stormy weather. There is no space for birds or bats of any kind. The corrugated metal has been filled with expanding foam where small gaps exist.
- The 'woodpile' was predominantly MDF and laminated boards and has been disposed of accordingly.

Photos



Figure 1 - Rear soffit and fascia



Figure 2 - Rear soffit and fascia



Figure 3 - side soffit and fascia



Figure 5 - Front soffit and fascia



Figure 4 - Side elevation of roof



Figure 6 - Close up of roof



Figure 7 - Outbuilding



Figure 8 - Close up of garage outbuilding roof



Figure 9 - image showing expanding foam in outbuilding roof

Precautionary Working Method Statement

Amphibians and Reptiles

As previously mentioned by the ecologist officer the site has potential to provide cover for common amphibian and reptile species such as slow-worm and lizards. Because of this, the following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the impact of potential disturbance to amphibians or reptiles:

1. Care will be taken when clearing any materials at the site such as those described above, and all vegetation at the site due for clearance will be kept close cut prior to work commencing, to deter any species from using it as cover, and to make it easier to find any that may be present. Any animals that are found during work at the site will be collected and moved to suitable undisturbed habitat such as the boundary shrubs.
2. If great crested newts are found whilst works are on-going despite following good practise guidelines, all work will stop and the situation re-assessed and a mitigation licence applied for if necessary. Any handling of this species will only be carried out by someone with a great crested newt license.
3. Any trenches that are present will be covered over at night to prevent animals from falling into them.
4. Piles of bricks, tiles, building rubble etc, will not be left lying around to prevent newts and other species taking refuge in them, with any building materials stored above ground on pallets and building waste put in skips.

Hedgehogs

Open trenches will be covered overnight, or mammal ladders will be fitted in each corner of footings. During construction, concrete will be poured early in the day or covered with ply boarding or membrane overnight to

prevent hedgehog coming into contact. Trenches will be inspected for the presence of any hedgehogs and other wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, and other mammals) prior to commencing a concrete pour.

Ecology enhancements

Within the development we will look to introduce further ecology measures, these will include:

- Bird boxes – These will be incorporated within the proposed development, thereby increasing nesting opportunities for birds at the site.
- Bat boxes – These will be incorporated within the proposed development. The provision of bat boxes will provide new roosting opportunities for bats in the area. To maximise their potential use, they will be erected as high up as possible and sited in sheltered wind-free areas that are exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing a south-east, south or south - westerly direction.
- Habitat Piles. A proportion of any deadwood arising from any clearance works will be retained within the site in a few wood piles located within areas of new planting to provide potential habitat opportunities for invertebrate species, which in turn could provide a prey source for a range of other wildlife.

Additional precautions

- Vegetation such as shrubs and trees 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.
- Vegetation should be kept cut short so that it does not develop as suitable habitat. Any vegetation that might shelter reptiles or amphibians must be checked by hand before clearance. Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own. This is especially important as slow worms and lizards can shed their tails when under threat, which leaves them open to infection and more vulnerable to predators.
- In the unlikely event that great crested newts are found whilst works are on-going despite following good practise guidelines, all work will stop and the situation re-assessed and a mitigation licence applied for if necessary.
- Any handling of this species will only be carried out by someone with a great crested newt license. All building materials are 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.
- No fires can be lit on site.