

Ecology response 5/8 24 for H/24/97562 LYNCIES, SALTERNS LANE, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DH

Extensions to detached summer house and extension to detached garage

Claire Campbell-Best

5/8/24

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (August 2024). The garage and the summerhouse have been assessed to have negligible bat roost suitability. The area around the garage and summerhouse provide sub-optimal habitat for great crested newts, so it is unlikely that great crested newts will be present on site. The wood store at the rear of the garage could be used as shelter by hedgehogs. All of the trees, shrubs and hedges as well as the bird boxes on the exterior walls of both the garage and the summerhouse provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. No vegetation is currently proposed to be removed.

The recommendations in the report are sound and must be implemented. If plans change, the report contains additional recommendations with regards to the main house and vegetation clearance.

If any great crested newts are found during works then all works will stop, and a suitably qualified ecologist will be contacted. Depending on where it is found, surveys and a European Protected Species (EPS) license from Natural England may be required, or works may be able to proceed working under a site-specific method statement.

The lower levels of wood and building material in the wood store on the south elevation (rear) of the garage will be dismantled by hand and with due care to prevent any injury to hedgehogs (or other small mammals) that could be present. In addition, all building debris and materials will be tidied away and disposed of in a skip or stored in such a way as to prevent small mammals (such as hedgehogs) from nesting in or under them.

The recommended biodiversity enhancements are a bat box on a mature tree on the property, and a swift box on the exterior of the house.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

18/7/24

I have reviewed the site photos. The wood store at the rear of the garage could be used as shelter by small animals, so the lower levels of wood and building materials must be dismantled with due care. The area around the summer house is shown in the photos in the DAS. It is possible that great crested newts could be using this area for terrestrial habitat and that hedgehogs and nesting birds could also be affected.

The ecological appraisal must contain precautionary working methods to protect nesting birds and hedgehogs as well as any mitigation proposed for bats and great crested newts. The ecologist conducting the survey must also include biodiversity enhancements that would be appropriate for this site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

20/06/24

This site is in an amber 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, this can be done in one of three ways:*

1. Demonstrate that newts don't occur on your site (usually by commissioning an ecological consultant to carry out a site assessment).
2. Apply to Natural England for a Standard Licence – this can only be done after planning permission. You will need to commission an ecologist to carry out a survey and design a great crested newt mitigation scheme.
3. Join the NatureSpace District Licence Scheme, which usually provides the quickest, most certain and least risky option where a licence is required.

There are records of great crested newts close to this site. There are also records of bats, water shrews, nesting swifts and hedgehogs.

At the southwestern corner of the property, it is 35 m north of the River Hamble SAC and Badnam Copse SINC although the railway line separates the property from this SAC and SINC. Mallards Moor SINC is on the same side of the railway as the property and is approximately 110 m to the west.

Close up photos of the roofs of the garage and summerhouse are required to determine whether there are any potential bat roost features or areas that could shelter nesting birds. Both exterior and interior photos would be very helpful. Close up photos of any areas of the garden which would be impacted by the construction are also required to determine whether further surveys would be needed.

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