

Ecology response 6 11 2024 for H/22/94210 30 THISTLE ROAD, HEDGE END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0TT

Single storey side extension

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6/11/2024

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Inspection for Bat Roost Potential by CC Ecology (5 November 2024).

An update site walkover was carried out in July 2024 and two dusk bat emergence surveys were conducted in July and August 2024. There were no emergences or re-entries, but common pipistrelle bats were observed foraging and commuting in the garden.

Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

Condition: If building work or vegetation clearance is taking place within the breeding bird season (March through August inclusive), the buildings and vegetation (including the scrub vegetation outside the southwestern boundary of the site immediately adjacent to the construction zone) must be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of nesting birds just prior to the start of works. Any active bird's nest found prior to or during the construction period must remain undisturbed, with a suitable 5 m buffer, until after the young have fledged and left the nest.

Reason: To protect nesting birds in line with legislation.

There is a record of dormice approximately 30 m west of this site. If plans change and vegetation removal is necessary, a precautionary working method to protect dormice will be required.

There are also records of hedgehogs in this area. A precautionary working method for hedgehogs is required. This must include the following:

Any excavations must be covered at night or fitted with a small mammal escape ramp. No fires can be lit on site. Any piles of materials must be kept on hard standing or on pallets. If any hedgehogs are found on site they must not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

Biodiversity enhancements recommended in the report include:

installation of bird boxes on the new extension such as a sparrow terrace and starling box and planting of native fruiting shrubs and sowing of wildflower seed mix to create a wildlife garden.

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<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.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

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

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