

Ecology response for H/24/98283 3 YEW TREE COURT, BOTLEY ROAD, WEST END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3JS

Replace front boundary holly hedge with fence

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This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are records of hedgehogs and several species of reptiles nearby. Removal of the hedge would decrease habitat available for hedgehogs and nesting birds. It is not likely that great crested newts would be using this area.

Aerial photos show that it is not likely that great crested newts or reptiles would be using this area as it is not connected to other suitable habitat, however it may be used by hedgehogs and nesting birds.

Removal of these hedges will cause a net loss of biodiversity which is contrary to local plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. All applications must provide no net loss and some net gain of biodiversity.

The fencing replacing the hedge as proposed will not provide any biodiversity enhancements.

A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this site.

If the application is permitted and the hedgerow is to be removed it must only be done after a check for nesting birds and hedgehogs by a suitably qualified ecologist, or outside of bird nesting season, which is usually from March through August inclusive.

Removal of potential hedgehog habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. Replacement habitat can include log piles, leaf litter, dead wood and scrub. Hedgehog houses can also be made or purchased.

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

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>

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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