

Ecology response 2 12 24 for H/24/97104 Skylark, SALTERNS LANE, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DH

Removal of garden shed and erection of detached timber garden room and store

Alex Stone

2/12/24

I have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal report by Hampshire Ecological Services (November 2024). Both buildings have been assessed as having negligible suitability for roosting bats. The lighting recommendations in the report are appropriate and must be followed.

All of the buildings, trees and shrubs are suitable for use by nesting birds, so all demolition and vegetation removal must take place out of bird nesting season (late February through August inclusive). If this is not possible, within 24 hours of the start of work a pre-works check must be done by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any active nests are found all work must stop and they must be protected from disturbance by a 5 m buffer until the young have fledged and left the nest.

The site has been assessed as being unsuitable as habitat for great crested newts, however the precautionary working measures for great crested newts as listed in section 5.6 (all) must be followed.

The recommended precautionary working methods for bats and lighting (section 5.4.3), nesting birds (section 5.4.7), stag beetles (section 5.4.8) and reptiles (section 5.4.9) are appropriate and must be implemented. Hedgehogs have not been considered in the report, however the precautionary working methods already specified will protect hedgehogs on site. If found, they should not be handled but be allowed to move to safety on their own. If any hedgehogs are found injured or suspected to be ill, the nearest hedgehog rescue service should be called for advice.

Montbretia must be removed (as directed in section 5.7) so that it is not spread off site.

The biodiversity enhancements for bats (section 5.7.4) and nesting birds (section 5.7.5) are appropriate and must be implemented.

The additional biodiversity enhancement recommendations can be considered by the applicant.

Surface water drainage information is still required but can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

8/7/24

This site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are ponds with records of great crested newts very close to the site. The nearest ponds are 16 m to the southwest, 104 m to the southeast and 170 m to the east.

- **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 also nearby records of bats, stag beetles and hedgehogs.

The photo of the shed on the Existing garden shed and site plan does not provide sufficient detail to determine whether great crested newts or other protected species may be using vegetation in the area that would be impacted by construction. I can see a pile of what looks like brown vegetation to the left of the existing shed in the photo. This could be an ideal habitat for amphibians in their terrestrial phase, stag beetles, hedgehogs and reptiles.

A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) will be required. If it can be demonstrated by a suitably qualified ecological consultant that newts do not use this site or that the proposal can be implemented without impacting protected and priority species, then precautionary working methods can be conditioned. The shed is under a tree which could provide habitat for nesting birds and bats. These will also need to be considered in the PEA report.

Surface water drainage arrangements for the proposed new garden room and store must be provided.

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>

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