

Ecology response for H/24/98601 DERRY DACY, PEEWIT HILL, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8BL

Side and rear extensions and raising of roof to provide first floor accommodation along with temporary changes to existing ground levels (Part Retrospective)

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Based on the documents submitted for this application, previous applications citing permitted development rights, a history of site clearance before submission of planning applications and the age of the ecology reports, it is not clear which part of the application is now retrospective, and what work has already been started/completed. A current walkover update to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal with current site photos is required to provide this information.

The description for this application is the same as for two previous applications: H/24/97366 which was refused in June 2024 and H/24/97912 which was refused in November 2024.

One of the reasons for refusal was: *Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the proposed development will not cause adverse harm to the biodiversity interests of the site and species...* Provision of sufficient ecological information will avoid a recurrence of this situation.

Records of bats, common reptiles, great crested newts, nesting birds, badgers, hazel dormice and harvest mice have been found on or near this site. These are species which might be impacted by construction activities. Updated information is required on whether there is still potential for each of these species to be using the site and whether they would be impacted by the works required for this proposal.

Both the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Ecosupport (February 2023) and the Phase II Bat Surveys and Mitigation Strategy report (August 2023) which have been submitted for this application were dated before June 2024, so they were already written, but were not submitted for the previous application. The Phase II Bat report is labelled *Draft not for submission*, which implies that a final report may be forthcoming.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report was originally submitted with application F/23/94651, which was for a replacement dwelling rather than extensions and raising the roof.

The main dwelling was assessed to have moderate potential for roosting bats and the two required Phase II bat emergence surveys were done. Bats were recorded foraging and commuting across the site, but no bats emerged at the time of the July-August 2023 surveys.

The Phase II bat report is now 16 months old. In section 1.2 it states that *If the development does not take place within 18 months of this report then the findings may need to be updated*. An update walkover as part of the PEA update may be sufficient, depending on the state of

the site and the dwelling, however depending on the findings of this survey, additional bat emergence surveys may be required.

A precautionary working method to protect wildlife during construction will be required. Additional information must be provided on the proposed changes to existing ground levels and how the impacts on these species would be mitigated.

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](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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