

Ecology response for H/24/98004 7 OAK DRIVE, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7JT

New boundary wall

Charlie Vallis

31/12/24

Aerial photos show a large hedge in the front garden and two more in the rear garden. Hedges will provide potential habitat for nesting birds. There are records of hedgehogs in the wider area.

The Existing and Proposed plans only show existing firs to be removed on the southwestern boundary, to be replaced by new decorative planting with the new wall shown on that boundary from A to B.

The new planting has not been specified. All applications are required to provide some biodiversity enhancements in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. This proposal can provide some biodiversity net gain if the shrubs or trees provide flowers for pollinators and fruit and seeds for birds and other wildlife.

A precautionary working method for nesting birds and hedgehogs will be required.

It should include:

All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.

Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp

No fires can be lit on site.

Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife.

Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

The existing firs must be removed carefully to avoid harm to hedgehogs and nesting birds if they are using this area. Hedgehogs may be hibernating between late October and early March, depending on the temperature. The nesting bird season is between early March and the end of August. To avoid harm to both species removal of the fir trees should be done in late February if possible.

If there are any branches below 30 cm, they must be removed using hand tools to avoid harm to hedgehogs. The leaf litter below the firs should also be cleared carefully by hand. Any animals must be allowed to move away on their own and should not be handled unless injured or unwell. A wildlife rescue centre or the Hedgehog Preservation Society should be contacted if there are concerns. If there is no vegetation or leaf litter below 30 cm, then hedgehogs are not likely to be sheltering under these trees.

Vegetation attractive to nesting birds must be removed outside of bird nesting season or if this is not possible then only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of works. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

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.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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