

Ecology response 13 1 25 for F/24/98426 14 KINSBOURNE WAY, THORNHILL,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO19 6HB

Proposed erection of 1no. 3-bedroom detached house

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

13/1/25

I have reviewed the amended site plan and precautionary working method by Nature's Cousins (January 2025). The scattered trees and existing Leylandii boundary hedge are proposed to be replaced with native hedgerow planting. Species rich grassland mix has been proposed for the rear garden. These are positive changes.

The precautionary working method is appropriate and can be implemented.

Although it would be ideal for vegetation clearance works to be timed to avoid bird nesting season, since site clearance must be done under ecological supervision for reptiles and amphibians, with a pre-works search for nesting birds I don't think this needs to be an additional condition, but it could be added as an advisory:

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.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

19/11/24

Ecology and BNG

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, hedgehogs and stag beetles nearby, and nesting swifts, adders, slow worms and common lizards in the wider vicinity of the site. There is suitable habitat for nesting birds on site.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by Nature's Cousins (October 2024). In addition to the information given in the report, clearing the bramble scrub will reduce foraging habitat for bats.

Precautionary pre-works checks for hedgehogs and nesting birds are required immediately before removal of any vegetation or of the shed.

The precautionary working methods to protect reptiles and nesting birds during vegetation clearance is described in sections 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 of the report. This is appropriate and can be conditioned. A check for non-native invasive plants can be done by the ecologist as the scrub vegetation is being cleared. Site clearance must be avoided during the bird nesting season (March-August) as it is highly likely that birds would be nesting in it, and it would not be possible to check the dense scrub for nesting birds without disturbing them.

The biodiversity enhancement measures recommended in section 8.2.1 are appropriate. A Biodiversity/Landscape Environmental Management Plan showing the locations and specifications of these features can be conditioned. This should also include a planting plan which includes flowering plants for pollinators. This should include night scented flowering plants to attract pollinators such as moths as food for bats.

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>

The further recommendations for biodiversity net gain on page 41 of the report were to replace the existing boundary fence with planted native hedgerow species and to use a species rich grassland seed mix of local provenance to the area for the gardens. Planting additional standard trees such as English oak and hazel which will benefit local wildlife has also been recommended.

The Small Sites Biodiversity Metric calculates a loss of 0.092 area habitat biodiversity units (0.0692 medium distinctiveness units and 0.0210 low distinctiveness units)

Removal of 29 m of leylandii hedge represents 0.029 linear units lost.

Off-site biodiversity units can be purchased to provide 10% biodiversity net gain as recommended in the report. This can be conditioned. A completed Biodiversity Gain Plan will be required post-determination along with proof of purchase of off-site units.

Surface Water Drainage

Surface water drainage information will be required in accord with local plan policy DM6. If soakaways are proposed they must be supported by infiltration test results and be located at least 5 m from any built structure. Permeable paving should also be considered.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist