

H/25/99047 The Bays, Horton Heath SO50 7DG

Rear single storey extension

Ecology comments 29.4.25

I have no concerns regarding the proposed works.

Biodiversity enhancement:

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 187 and 192 and EBC policy DM11.

The enhancement could be one or more of the following:

1. Several species of bird can nest at single storey height, e.g. several tit species and wrens, therefore an integrated bird box/brick (built into the wall) suitable for these species could be installed as high up as possible on the northern elevation of the extension. For guidance, the hole diameter should be 28-34mm. These boxes are available for brick or rendered walls.
2. An integrated bee brick (built into the wall) could be installed on the new southern elevation.
3. The property is within an amber zone for great crested newts and therefore it is possible for them to be present at this location. There is an existing fishpond which will need to be removed to facilitate the extension (this is due to be relocated elsewhere in the garden) but this appears to be of low suitability for amphibians. A valuable biodiversity enhancement would be to create a separate wildlife pond (in addition to the replacement fishpond) in a suitable location in the garden.

Advisory: Although unlikely, should any roosting bat be found during the works, work must stop immediately and Natural England or a suitably qualified ecologist be contacted.

Advisory: Should any active birds' nest be found in the area of works, a minimum 5m undisturbed works exclusion zone must be established until the young have fledged.

Advisory: During the works, any excavations must be covered or escape ramps installed over night or during periods of inactivity to prevent any fauna such as hedgehogs becoming trapped.

Sarah Boyd

Ecologist