

Ecology response for H/25/99299 2 WOOLSTON ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FQ

New annexe following the demolition of the existing outbuilding.

Gregg Chapman

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Priors Hill Copse/Hound Grove SINC is a woodland which contains ancient woodland is located to the east and northeast of the site. The property is not adjacent to the SINC, however it is only 8 m from the SINC boundary at the eastern property boundary. The designated Ancient Woodland within the SINC is approximately 19 m from the property boundary. Spear Pond gully is located within the SINC. The woodland that is not part of the SINC is lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat.

I have reviewed the site visit photos. The existing outbuilding is proposed to be on hardstanding at the rear of the garden. The rest of the garden appears to be amenity lawn. The proposed annexe would cover the entire width of the garden, so there would not be a 15 m buffer to the SINC at that point. There is an existing footpath between the property and the SINC along the eastern boundary.

There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this site. The site photos show that the fence has concrete baseboards which would not allow hedgehogs to move through the garden.

The proposal has the potential to affect bats during construction and with additional light and light spill and noise at the end of the garden. All elevations are proposed to have windows other than the northeastern elevation.

A CEMP is required, which will contain a precautionary working method to protect bats and small mammals during construction.

Light spill must be controlled by having curtains on the windows at night. New exterior lighting should be avoided, but if necessary for security purposes, then the latest updated lighting guidance note (GN08/23) must be followed. This is available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](https://www.theilp.org.uk/Guidance%20Note%208%20Bats%20and%20Artificial%20Lighting).

Surface water drainage and any exterior lighting location and specifications must be marked on a diagram.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. 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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