

H/25/99257 57 HANSEN GARDENS, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2LN

Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension, vehicle drop kerb and parking for one car.

Ecology Comments 2.6.25

I do not have any concerns regarding the application. Although the property is within an amber risk zone for great crested newts, the area of garden which will be affected by the proposals, appears to be of unsuitable terrestrial habitat for newts due to its current maintenance and lack of suitable features.

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 western 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 southern elevation of the extension.
3. A valuable biodiversity enhancement would be to create a wildlife pond in a suitable location in the garden with the pond and surrounding area maintained in a favourable way for wildlife.

Advisory: Great crested newts are legally protected. Should any great crested newt be found, please contact Natural England or a suitably qualified ecologist for further advice.

Advisory: Nesting birds are legally protected. 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. Excavations must be regularly checked and any trapped animal must be safely released.

Sarah Boyd, Ecologist