

Ecology response for X/25/99428 THE FIRS, PORTSMOUTH ROAD, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8EW

Removal of condition 9 (retention of boundary hedge for privacy reasons) of application
F/12/70209 (erection of a three-bed dwelling)

Gregg Chapman

16/6/25

Although this application is for removal of a condition, it is essentially for removal of a hedge. The overgrown fir trees provide potential habitat for nesting birds and bats and would be subject to the EBC tree replacement policy if removed. Removal of the hedge and replacing it with a bare fence with no vegetation would lead to a net loss of biodiversity. This is contrary to DM 11 and the NPPF and the Environment Act 2021. If the hedgerow is longer than 5 m then 10% biodiversity net gain will be required.

A revision in the property boundary is mentioned in the planning statement but not shown on any of the documents submitted. Further information is required on the position of the proposed new site boundaries and any potential biodiversity enhancements and landscaping proposed by the applicant.

Invasive species are also mentioned in the planning statement. Which species are these? It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are not allowed to be spread into the wild. If this application is permitted, a CEMP will be required to ensure that precautionary working methods prevent the spread of invasive plant species. Further information can be found on this webpage: [Invasive non-native \(alien\) plant species: rules in England and Wales - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/invasive-non-native-plant-species-rules-in-england-and-wales)

Additional information on biodiversity enhancements 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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