

Ecology response 21 7 25 for H/25/99245 447 FAIR OAK ROAD, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7AJ

Erection of double garage with home office at the rear of the garden

Charlie Vallis

21/7/25

I have reviewed the site photos which show that some building work is already in progress on this site. The trees and vegetation at the northern end of the property have potential for nesting birds, hedgehogs and reptiles. The TPO oak at the north-eastern end of the site has some split bark which could be a potential bat roost feature.

- Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August). If this is not possible, then vegetation can be cleared only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of works. 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.
- If hedgehogs are using the site they would be sheltering under dense vegetation or within long grass, dead leaves or piles of dead wood. These areas should be cleared by hand, not using a digger, to allow animals time to escape. Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating.
- If a hedgehog is found during development and/or there are welfare concerns, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted for advice and guidance on 01584 890 801 or on the website at <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/found-a-hedgehog/>.
- The British Hedgehog Society recommends that *Areas should be cleared on rotation with scrubby patches left to provide nesting habitat and cover. If this is not possible, piles of dead wood and brash piles can be created in other areas around the site to mitigate for the removal of suitable nesting sites. These can be created behind hedges or out of the way for smaller developments with limited space.* Replacement habitat can include log piles, leaf litter, dead wood and scrub. Hedgehog houses can also be made or purchased. <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>
- Hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) must be included in the baseboards of any closed board fences to allow the free passage of small mammals through the garden.

- A precautionary working method must be used to prevent harm to wildlife that could be using this site. It should include:
 - Vegetation, brash piles and piles of rubble must be cleared by hand to allow any animals sheltering under it to escape unharmed.
 - All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.
 - Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp
 - No fires can be lit on site.
 - Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Any chemicals and fuels must be stored carefully and away from potential wildlife habitat.
 - Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

26/6/25

There are records of bats near this site. Aerial photos show trees at the northern end of the property.

To determine whether a survey or precautionary working methods will be required I need to review photos of the area that would be impacted by the proposal. A garage in this location implies that access to the road behind the house may also be required. This is not shown in the plan.

A surface water drainage plan is required.

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

A bat box and a bird nest box 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))

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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