

Ecology response 21 7 25 for H/24/97709 3A MANCHESTER ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5DB

Demolition of existing garage to create single storey garden room/sunroom

Alex Stone

21/7/25

I have reviewed the updated CEMP (July 2025). It now contains all the relevant information and can be accepted.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

7/7/25

A CEMP with a precautionary working method to protect birds, bats, hedgehogs and stag beetles will be required.

I have reviewed the CEMP (no author, July 2025). It is not sufficient. The purpose of the CEMP is to collect all of the required information in the same document, so that it is easily referenced during construction. The tree protection measures will include having the project arboricultural consultant available to supervise during the activities specified in section 7.

The only report from Nature's Cousins is for bats (Preliminary Roost Assessment 11/2/25).

Rather than referring to the ecology report in general, the specific recommendations for all species which might be using the site must be included in the CEMP. These are:

Bats (from the Nature's Cousins report)

4.4.3 In the event the oak tree is unable to be retained within the proposals, further assessment is required via bat surveys and inspection from height is recommended in order to assess whether the tree supports a bat roost. And 6.3.1 If the oak tree directly adjacent to the garage does require removal, then further climb and inspection survey is recommended prior to its removal in order to confirm presence or absence of bats.

6.1.1 bat boxes must be provided on the retained tree (large oak tree in the rear garden) in order to provide compensatory roosting opportunities for bats. This should be done before the start of works. In case any bats are found during construction, they will be able to use this bat box.

6.2.1 Installation of two bat boxes on retained trees on site. Bat boxes (such as the Schwegler 2F models or similar design) should be installed on the oak tree and conifer tree; positioned away from artificial lighting, prevailing winds and in a way that reduces vulnerability from predators, such as cats (BCT, 2018). If installation upon the trees is not possible (due to their TPO status), bat boxes suitable for buildings could be installed on the exterior of the new garage block. This will need to be determined before the start of construction so that bat boxes can be planned to be added into the new garage block.

Birds

Construction must be done in spring, summer or autumn when Brent Geese and Solent Waders are not likely to be using the nearby sites.

Nesting birds: 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) or if this is not possible then 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.

Hedgehogs

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/>.

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- a slanted rough board.

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.

Stag Beetles

As there is a possibility that suitable stag beetle larvae habitat may be uncovered during excavation, contractors should be aware of how to identify stag beetles and what to do if they find one. Stag beetles are around 8cm, with a smooth deep brown exoskeleton and visible mandibles and the larvae are cream with a brown head and curved elongated body. If found, larvae will be relocated to a new stag beetle loggery built from dead wood already on site and placed just underground and covered loosely with soil. [Build-a-log-pile-for-stag-beetles.pdf](#)

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

13/2/25

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment report by Nature's Cousins (February 2025). The building has been assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability and no further surveys are required. The oak tree immediately adjacent to the garage does have three notable bat roost features.

The tree must be protected during construction. If felling the tree becomes necessary, then climbed bat surveys to investigate these features will be required. As compensation for the loss of the bat roost features on the garage, two bat boxes must be installed on the retained trees at the rear of the garden to provide roost features for crevice-dwelling bats. If installing bat boxes on these trees is not possible, then bat boxes more suitable for buildings could be installed on the new building. The aspect of each elevation is not clear from the plans as they are labelled side, front and rear rather than north, south, east and west. The addition of night scented flowering plants to the garden will attract moths as food for bats.

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>)

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>

A CEMP with a precautionary working method to protect birds, bats, hedgehogs and stag beetles will be required.

No impact is expected on the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Network site E03 (low use site) or on the SPA as the disturbance during construction will be very limited and over a short time and there is no change of use of the site. Construction must be done in spring, summer or autumn when the birds are not likely to be using the site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist