

Ecology response 10 9 25 for H/25/99430 THE WALLED GARDEN, NETLEY HILL ESTATE,
HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO19 6AN

Erection of double garage following removal of existing garage.

Charlie Vallis

10/9/25

I have reviewed the site photos. I don't see any potential bat roost features on the garage. The garden around three sides of the garage appears to be gravel and soil with moss and a rose bush. From the photos, the fourth side appears to have vegetation, but it appears to be overhanging the brick garden wall rather than between the garage and the wall. The aerial photo of the site shows the garage built up to or onto the wall, so this vegetation would not be affected by removal of the garage. The vegetation in the garden could be used by nesting birds.

The garden wall would present a barrier to dispersal for great crested newts, slow worms, notable invertebrates, hazel dormouse, harvest mouse and badgers if they were present on the rest of the estate. The habitat in the garden in the vicinity of the existing garage is not likely to support these species, however precautionary working methods must be followed to avoid harm to any protected species that might enter the garden.

I don't think any surveys will be required but the following informatives must be added to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

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.

Precautionary working method:

There are piles of rubble, shrubs and a possible wood store behind the garage. If these are to be moved to facilitate this proposal, they must be moved carefully by hand, to allow time to escape for any animals using them for shelter.

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.

Biodiversity enhancements could be agreed before determination or could be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

1/8/25

I have reviewed the Bat Roost Assessment by Phillips Ecology. This is a draft report dated October 2021 (and now out of date) submitted for a planning application for demolition of the northern extensions and construction of a replacement extension of the house. Bats were recorded commuting and foraging during that survey. On the site plan (April 2025) the garage is shown as separate from the house. It was not mentioned in the 2021 report, so there is no evidence that it was surveyed at that time. The site plan also mentions extending the existing drive.

The site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of slow worms, notable invertebrates, hazel dormouse, harvest mouse and badgers in the area.

It is not possible to see this area clearly on Google maps. To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close-up photos taken in good light of all areas of the garage roof, fascia, soffits (standing next to building and looking upwards), flashings, any tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings. Photos are also required of the garage roof taken from inside the building and looking up.

Photos of any areas of the garden affected by this proposal are also 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 swift 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))

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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