

Ecology response for F/25/100593 10th Itchen (West End) Scout Group, Scout Hall, Elizabeth Close, Southampton, SO30 3LT

Erection of a detached single-storey timber outbuilding, replacement section of fencing to the front boundary, installation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on proposed new fence, felling of 1 x common lime tree 'Tilia x europaea' (a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order) and replacement tree planting.

Katie Lasham

5/1/26

No objection

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal by Ecology Works (December 2025). There are records of bats, hedgehogs and badgers near this site.

Ecology

The site has been assessed as containing suitable habitat for foraging/commuting bats, badgers, hazel dormice, breeding birds and hedgehogs. A small area of woodland is proposed to be lost.

There is a badger sett in the woodland with at least one active entrance. The distance from proposed works to the badger sett entrance has not been given in the report, however the report states that a license from Natural England is not required given the proposed construction method and tree removal method with the relevant impact zone buffers for the use of heavy and light machinery.

The lime tree which is proposed to be removed has been assessed and did not have any potential bat roost features at the time of the survey. It does have the potential to be used by nesting birds (see advisory below).

Advisories:

If the proposal changes with respect to the machinery required and distance from the badger sett, or a new sett entrance is constructed, a suitably qualified ecologist and Natural England must be contacted for advice.

To protect badgers from disturbance, the precautions in section 6.1.3 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal must be implemented.

In addition, the following precautionary working methods must be followed to protect badgers and hedgehogs:

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.

To protect nesting birds:

Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development (including the lime tree) 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.

Ecological enhancements

The proposed enhancements of a bat box, two bird boxes, hedgehog nest box and a planted rain garden are appropriate for this site. Four trees are proposed to be planted to compensate for the loss of one mature common lime tree.

Biodiversity Net Gain

This proposal is exempt from 10% BNG because it impacts less than 25m² of vegetated habitat.

Surface water drainage

A rain garden planter has been proposed and is appropriate for this site. Flowering plants for pollinators, especially night scented flowering plants, should be planted to attract insects as food for bats and birds.

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>
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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist