



To Whom it May Concern

**Re: Chestnut Cottage, Sheldons Lane, Hook, Hampshire RG17 9LH**  
**Original Ref: 16/02387/FUL Current Ref: 20/02949/FUL**

This consultancy carried out a Phase 1 Habitat & Protected Species Survey of Chestnut Cottage on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The survey found a detached dwelling that had been altered and extended on a number of occasions, located in a typical suburban garden with tightly cut lawns and high boundary hedges and most trees on the margins.

The house, garage and garden were surveyed for all protected plant and animal species. Of these, bats and birds were the only species that might be expected to be present.

The original cottage was the oldest part and had a low roof void (1m) with dense cobwebs. Too low to be used by bats. The extension linked to the main cottage in the 1970s, had a larger roof void but had no evidence of use by bats. Two smaller extensions had no significant roof voids and no bat roost potential. All the walls were rendered and had no cavity walls. The presence of rafter tails on all eaves meant that there were no soffits in which bats could roost. The roof tiles were all in good condition with no lifted tiles or evidence of bat droppings. No evidence of or potential for bats was found.

The garage had a mezzanine floor with no bat droppings. The structure had no cavity walls or soffits. The tiles were under-felted and in good condition. No evidence for or potential for bats was found.

No evidence was found that birds used either the cottage or the garage for nesting, although the hedges around the garden would offer shelter. The proposal would result in the loss of an apple tree which had no wildlife potential and this has since been removed. An ivy covered pole beside the garage was identified as having potential for birds to nest and roost in and this has since been removed.

Apart from the removal of the apple tree and the pole, there have been no material changes to the structures surveyed in 2016. It is considered therefore, that the report produced at that time remains valid for this site.

K L Buckley BA  
Consultant Ecologist  
ERAs Consultancy

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021