

Site address:

50 Seymour Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1SH

The reference number for this case is EN/24/0009. I have confirmed in the Biodiversity Checklist questionnaire that our project to build a replacement shed in our back garden has no adverse impact on existing or proposed designated sites, priority or other notable habitats or legally protected or notable species [see Biodiversity\_Statement\_for\_50\_Seymour\_Rd.pdf].

Since moving into our home in 2000 I have taken every opportunity to encourage wildlife and increase the variety of micro-habitats available. For 24 years we have gardened organically, growing our own fruit and vegetables without harm to the environment. I support, protect and champion wildlife as a member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and People's Trust for Endangered Species. As a lifelong lover of our natural environment and a practical conservationist I have ensured that our shed design will continue my ongoing work to improve biodiversity in our garden and enhance support for wildlife.

I am also a member of Dorset CAN, with particular interest in the Great Big Dorset Hedge project. Putting this experience into practice at home I planted a native hedge to increase the number of available roosting and nesting sites in our garden, as well as providing food for birds and small mammals. I plan to extend that young native hedge into our back garden as soon as work on the shed is complete.

We included the following design elements in our shed plan to further improve biodiversity around our home:

- Site preparation closely supervised throughout to ensure that no wildlife was harmed during grass cutting and turf lifting.
- Construction strictly confined to the late Autumn and Winter seasons to avoid any possible disturbance to nesting birds.
- The wooden fence running NNW to SSE behind the shed's location was replaced prior to the start of our project. This included provision of several designated spaces to allow easy hedgehog travel, but sadly our neighbours on that boundary have already filled in all the hedgehog holes.
- Saw-tooth roof profile design, with two gently sloping planes of roof space to encourage lichen. To accelerate patina development and colonisation, slow-draining roof surfaces to be treated with waste milk product after completion. The shady North-facing roof and wall will quickly attract moss growth.
- Water collected from the roof will be used to fill a shallow, low-level drinking trough along the lower edge of the South-facing wall, sheltered by the greenhouse.
- Bee and bug hotels will be fitted to the South-facing eaves.
- Bird boxes will be fitted under the North-facing and East-facing eaves.
- Solar power fed swift caller (with timer) to attract swifts to the nest boxes already installed under house eaves directly above the shed.
- Hanging basket-type coco fibre bird feeders suspended from the West-facing walls. This has been suggested to me as a way to feed birds without encouraging vermin to the fallen seeds. (Please see Supporting Statement note on rat infestation.)
- New planting of deciduous climbing and rambling species (hop, honeysuckle, old man's beard, dog rose) around the structure to provide varied habitat and further encourage colonisation.

Having devoted nearly 20 years of my early career working for the Environment Agency I have first-hand experience of the potential impacts on biodiversity that come with any building project, be it large or small. I insist that our work at home is likewise careful and mindful of our ecological responsibilities - from site preparation, through construction, to future upkeep. Our mission is that every year our garden will become a richer, more diverse habitat. Please consider this in your decision for our application.

*Dr. Mark Goulding CChem FRSC & Ms. Sue Pulman, Ringwood, February 17th, 2024.*