

**Extension and Conversion of
existing Garage at
Amaryllis, Buzza Hill, St.Mary's
Isles of Scilly
to create Retirement Bungalow for
Chris and June Jones**

STATEMENT of BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

March 2020

The conversion and extension of the existing garage is a minor building project and land within the Amaryllis site that is already developed. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge the importance of preserving and enhancing the wildlife and fauna on Scilly so great care needs to be taken during the building works. If possible there should be a net biodiversity gain as a result of the development. This report explains how measures can be taken to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity and that positive contributions are made.

1. Conserving Landscape and Gardens

The existing garage is surrounded by mature gardens and is bounded by a tall hedge at the back of the application site. This hedge separates the Amaryllis grounds from a public footpath leading to Buzza Tower and Porthcressa Beach. The applicants engage local gardeners who are well aware of the importance of preserving the fauna and landscape. For example, any trimming or pruning of the boundary hedge would normally be carried out in the summer months outside the nesting season.



The hedgerows around the application site will not be affected by the building work and there are no plans other than to carry out routine garden maintenance. However, land will need to be cleared to create the sites for the two extensions. Initially the building site will be clearly defined by erecting clear fencing to protect the mature gardens. Areas off-site will be identified for storing materials or contractor's site facilities. The existing gardeners will then be instructed to remove any shrubs or flowers for later transplanting. Plants will be retained in the Amaryllis gardens and watered and generally cared for during the building work. When the conversion and extension project is complete, the transplanting will take place to create the new garden areas shown on the application drawings. There should be no need to introduce new plants for the gardens themselves, although plants may have to be purchased for the stone planting wall in front of the bungalow. Indigenous plant species should be chosen using local suppliers such as Mike Nelhams at Tresco Abbey Gardens.



2. Protection of Bats

It is now widely acknowledged that there are three resident bat species on Scilly and that up to seven species inhabit the islands from time to time. The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust are actively involved in research, training and bat conservation and provide a consultancy service. The applicants are aware of the work of the Wildlife Trust and would be happy to work with them and carefully consider any advice they have to offer for this

project. There are no proposals to alter the existing garage roof structure so there should to carry out a bat or protected species survey (as identified in the pre-app report). However, a bat-box has been specified on the application drawings and should be located at high level on the West facing gable of the extension. Bat boxes can be constructed on site using guidance provided by the RSPB on their website – possibly using timber salvaged from the construction work.



3. Protection of Birds and Wildlife

Other wildlife should be acknowledged and protected. As this is a minor building project it is unlikely to have any significant impact on protected wildlife such as birds or hedgehogs. It is proposed that two bird-boxes should be installed below the eaves on the North facing rear elevation behind the living room, out of reach of predators. When the applicants move into their retirement home they will be able to erect hanging bird-feeders in the gardens so that they can enjoy watching wildlife.

Michael R Bradbury RIBA
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