

Ecology Response amended for H/22/93393 9 OATLANDS CLOSE, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2DF

Proposed two storey side and rear extension.

Alex Stone

12 September 2022

Thanks very much for sending the photos. I do not see any potential bat roost features other than the hanging tiles on the northwest side elevation. From my reading of the plans, this area would not be affected by the proposed work. The roofing felt in the loft appears to be intact other than one area near the ridge where it is torn, and a small piece is hanging down.

Please could you add the following informative 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>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4 August 2022

There are several records of bats nearby and this proposal requires works to the roof. Please could you send close-up photos of any of the areas of the house which would be affected by the proposal, copied and pasted into a word document or saved as a pdf, because I cannot open jpg files. Photos of the soffits should be taken standing close to the house and looking upwards. Photos of the roof should be taken as close as possible to the house. Photos inside the loft should cover all aspects and be taken in good light.

In general, we need to see whether there are any potential gaps in the tiles, fascia, or soffits where bats could roost, so photos should show the areas that would be affected by the addition/extension and then any gaps, loose tiles, flashing coming away from the chimney or other places. Inside the loft we are looking for any gaps in the lining (or to see that there aren't any gaps), places where light is coming through into the loft (which could mean that a bat could get in through that gap). Page 3 of the Bats and Buildings brochure from the Bat Conservation Trust (<https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Bats-and-Buildings.pdf?v=1634310101>) has a very good diagram to show places bats may use in buildings.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required and can be conditioned. A built-in bat brick and a swift brick would be preferred if there are suitable locations in the new extension. If not, externally mounted boxes can be used. The garden should be enhanced with a range of flowering plants that will attract pollinators.

Additional information is available at:

<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.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist