

Ecology response for H/22/93579 24 SOVEREIGN WAY, EASTLEIGH, SO50 4SA

First floor side extension

Alex Stone

1 September 2022

There are records of hedgehogs near this property, and records of bats and swifts within 1 km. The photo of the house on Google maps shows hanging tiles to the front elevation, but the extension would not affect this area. The rest of the house appears to be constructed of brick, with roofing tiles in good condition.

To protect hedgehogs no fires can be lit on site and materials must be stored on pallets or on hardstanding. Any piles of materials or vegetation must be checked for hedgehogs before use. Any excavations or open pipes must be covered at night or provided with a small animal escape ramp.

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>.

Biodiversity enhancement is required. A swift brick/nest box and/or a bat brick /roost box built into the new extension or attached to the outside of the existing house would be an appropriate enhancement.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, south-east or south-west. (<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/putting-up-your-box>)

Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight.

(<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm> )

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

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

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

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