

Ecology response for H/22/93550 OTTERS HOLT, HOWARD CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3AD

Single storey rear extension and front extension. New front entrance porch. New access ramp. New front and side gates and posts. Decking. Replace boundary fence.

Alex Stone

15/9/22

Monks Brook runs along the western boundary of the property and there are records of hedgehogs and bats in very close proximity. There are records of breeding swifts nearby. There are records of otters using Monks Brook, although none of the records are very close to this property. There are protected trees to the rear of the property and a large mature protected beech tree within the curtilage of no. 7, adjacent to this site.

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>.

A CEMP will be required to provide details of measures to ensure that surface water drainage containing construction sediment is not allowed to enter the Monks Brook. The CEMP must also contain measures to ensure that hedgehogs or otters are not trapped in any excavations or pipes.

Any closed board fencing or gates must have a minimum 13 x 13 cm gap in the base to allow free passage of small mammals such as hedgehogs through the garden.

Biodiversity enhancement is required. This could include bat and/or swift nest boxes attached to the house or bat boxes, or other bird boxes attached to mature trees. Planting to attract pollinators, particularly night-scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats is also encouraged.

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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