

Ecology response for H/22/94026 11 AVENS CLOSE, HORTON HEATH, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7PW

Two storey side extension. Single storey rear extension and parking amendments

Claire Campbell-Best

21/11/22

Ecology

There are records of bats very near this property, however I don't see any potential bat roost features from the photo of the house on Google Maps. The proposed extension roof is slightly offset from the main roof. There are also records of hedgehogs and grass snakes in the area, but from the aerial photos I don't see any potential hedgehog or grass snake habitat on 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>.

Any permanent fencing that is erected at the property boundaries must have periodic holes (measuring 13cm by 13 cm minimum) at its base to allow the movement of animals, such as hedgehogs, to promote habitat connectivity and extended foraging ranges.

If there is a possibility that hedgehogs might be using this site, a precautionary working method should be followed:

If hedgehogs are using the site they would be sheltering under dense vegetation or within long grass, dead leaves, or piles of dead wood. These areas should be cleared by hand, not using a digger, to allow animals time to escape. Removal of potential habitat must not take place from November through March when animals may be hibernating. No fires can be lit on site.

During construction any excavations or open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with a small mammal escape ramp (a rough board slanted at a shallow angle) to prevent hedgehogs from becoming trapped. If hedgehogs are found they should not be handled but be left to move away on their own to a place of shelter. *If a hedgehog is found during development and/or there are welfare concerns, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted for advice and guidance on 01584 890 801.*

Biodiversity enhancements are required. This property may be suitable for a bat box and/or a swift nest box.

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](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>

Surface water drainage

The current surface water drainage system can be used. If soakaways are in use currently, the applicant must be advised that soakaways must be located at least 5 m from any built structure. Evidence of a satisfactory surface water drainage system, and that the extensions will not be too close to a soakaway, must be provided.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist