

Ecology response amended for H/22/94056 117 HIGH STREET, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3DY

Two storey side/rear extension. Single storey front extension. Alterations to fenestrations

Claire Campbell-Best

30/11/22

I have reviewed the site visit photos. The soffits appear to be intact, although this area is dark in colour and it was not a sunny day, so any gaps would not be clear. There are still slipped roof tiles in several locations and some gaps in the walls which could be used by bats or nesting birds. A preliminary bat roost assessment is required. The ecologist should also recommend appropriate locations for biodiversity enhancements in their report.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

21/11/22

The extension roof is set back in the front but continuous with the main roof at the rear. There are records of bats, breeding swifts and hedgehogs in the vicinity.

From the photos of the house on Google Maps I can see some raised or slipped roof tiles at the front and side elevations, but this image is dated 2012.

I need to review current close up photos of the roof and any areas that would be affected by the extensions to determine whether further surveys will be required.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs must 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. Built-in boxes/bricks are preferred as they do not require maintenance and cannot fall off.

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