

Ecology response amended for H/22/94035 35 ST JOHNS ROAD, HEDGE END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4DQ

Two storey and first floor rear extensions with elevational alterations

Claire Campbell-Best

23/11/22

I have reviewed the site visit photos. There are a few tiles on the single storey extension which are lifted, and this is an older house, it appears to be in very good condition, and I don't see any other potential bat roost features on the house.

As a precaution, I would recommend that the removal of the single storey roof tiles be done outside the active bat season, (i.e. not between April and September), the tiles should be removed carefully by hand (lifting vertically) and that all workers be alert to signs of bats as explained on the Bat Conservation Trust website (<https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/do-i-have-bats>). If a bat is found, the tile must be replaced gently, work must stop immediately, and Natural England informed, with the contact information available on the website below. If the roof work must be done during the active bat season, it should be supervised by a bat-licensed ecologist to avoid any possibility of disturbing bats which might be roosting under the tiles.

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 enhancements can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

21/11/22

There are records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site. Please could you send some close-up photos of the roof, flashings, soffits, fascia and chimneys to determine whether further surveys might be necessary.

A precautionary working method will be required to protect hedgehogs. 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.*

Further information is available at:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/developers-1.pdf>

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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist