

Ecology response for H/22/94323 2 BROOK COTTAGES, BROAD OAK, BOTLEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EU

Two storey side extension. Single storey rear extension

Claire Campbell-Best

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There are records of bats and hedgehogs very near this property with records of grass snakes in the vicinity. Photos of the site on Google maps show dense vegetation which would provide habitat for nesting birds and hedgehogs in the area proposed for the side extension. There is linear green infrastructure across Brook Lane which connects to Pudbrook Lake, a tributary of the River Hamble.

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) of the house and garden is required, to include an internal assessment of the loft. The PEA report must also include a recommendation of appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this property. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building.

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>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist