

Ecology response 16 1 23 for H/22/94218 5 HARBOURNE GARDENS, WEST END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO18 3LY

Replacement fascia, soffits and guttering to the front and rear of the property

Alex Stone

16/1/23

I have reviewed the additional photos and discussed the proposed works with John Tierney, from First Home Improvements. The proposed work will not affect the wooden cladding above and below the window. I don't see any other potential bat roost features in the photos.

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>.

After the replacement fascia, soffits and guttering work has been completed, a bat box or swift nest box should be installed as a biodiversity enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/1/23

These photos do show a potential bat roost feature in the form of a gap/warp in the wooden cladding board just above the window above the side door. It is not clear whether this area would be affected by the proposal, but disturbance to this feature could be avoided if no changes are planned to the strip of wooden cladding. I can't see the area behind the fascia boards at the gable apex but this would be another area of concern for bats, especially as it is a south facing elevation. I would like to review well-lit photos taken standing right next to the building and looking up at this entire side elevation and particularly the apex of the gable end. If this is not possible, then a check by a bat licensed ecologist would be prudent to avoid the possibility of disturbing bats or damaging a potential roost feature.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

5/12/22

There are records of bats very close to this property. I need to review close-up photos taken in good light of the roof, fascia and soffits to determine whether further survey is required.

Biodiversity enhancement is required. A bat box and/or a swift nest box might be appropriate for this proposal.

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