

Ecology response amended for H/23/94605 CRABLECK, HIGH STREET, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DJ

Single storey side extension towards the rear and conversion of car port to habitable accommodation

Claire Campbell-Best

13/3/23

I have reviewed the site photos taken 28/2/23. Although there are some tiny gaps in the tiles, I don't see any significant potential bat roost features, so a preliminary bat roost assessment would likely assess this property as having negligible bat roost potential. Obviously I couldn't assess the loft space and there is still a small risk that bats could be using this area, but there are no obvious visible entry points. It may be more efficient to have a preliminary ecological assessment with an inspection of the loft than to have to stop work if bats are found, but given the condition of the building I think this is a small risk.

Please could you include the following informative in the decision letter.

Workers must remain vigilant of the potential presence of bats, not obstruct their roosts or do anything that could cause harm to a bat. If bats or any signs of bats are found during construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. The Bat Conservation Trust website (<https://www.bats.org.uk/>) explains why bats are protected and what to do if you find a bat at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

Precautionary working methods are required to protect great crested newts in their terrestrial phase. Construction materials must be stored only on hard standing. Any holes, pipes or trenches must be covered at night or fitted with small animal escape ramps. If great crested newts or any signs of great crested newts are found during construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called.

Biodiversity enhancements are required. A bat box and a swift nest box 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>)

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

20/2/23

There are multiple records of bats very close to this property and great crested newts between this site and the railway line. The photo of the house on Google maps shows hanging tiles on at least one elevation. A preliminary ecological assessment including an internal inspection of the loft spaces will be required. The report must also include recommendations for appropriate biodiversity enhancements and precautionary working methods.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist