

Ecology response for H/23/94697 MINAGISH, HOUND ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FZ

One and a half storey side extension with extended rear dormer, raised decking, elevational alterations and replacement porch following demolition of integral garage.

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This site includes Spear Pond Gully SINC which is a main watercourse and several very large trees. There are records of bats, swifts, hedgehogs, and stag beetles very close to this site. The trees would provide good habitat for nesting birds and possibly for roosting bats. The aerial photos available on Google Maps show vegetation near the house and garage which would be affected by the proposal. A preliminary ecological appraisal will be required. In addition, a CEMP is required to protect the watercourse and its banks, trees and associated habitat during construction.

Biodiversity enhancements will also be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate enhancements 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/>

If new surface water drainage capacity is required due to the increase in roof area, this can be conditioned.

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Ecologist