

Ecology response amended for L/23/95094 and H/23/94975 4 STEEPCOURT BARNES,
CHURCH LANE, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EQ

Single storey link lobby

Alex Stone

25/5/23

I have reviewed the site photos and do not see any potential bat roost features. No further survey will be needed.

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 called. 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>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

17/5/23

There are records of bats very close to or connected to this property. Due to the proximity to nearby ponds and the River Hamble SAC, SPA and SSSI, there may also be other protected species in the vicinity. The property is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts.

From the elevation drawings it is not possible to determine what habitat might be affected, whether this proposal is to be built on existing hardstanding or whether there are any potential bat roost features on either of the buildings proposed to be linked. To determine whether there would be any possibility of impact on protected species I need to review close up photos of the areas of both buildings to be linked, and the area around the proposal.

Biodiversity enhancement will be required. As this is a very small proposal, either a bat box or a swift nest box mounted elsewhere on one of these buildings might be appropriate. Enhancing the garden with night-flowering scented plants would be another option.

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.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

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