

Ecology response amended for H/22/94334 1 NEWBURY CLOSE, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8ES

Two storey side extension and alteration to fenestration

Claire Campbell-Best

30/3/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment by Arbtech (March 2023). The building has been assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability, no evidence of nesting birds and no further surveys are required. The building has been re-roofed within the last 10 years.

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>.

*The applicant was advised that the hanging tiles that are showing the first signs of slipping should be secured back into place before these develop into potential bat roosting features if they were to slip further or fall.*

Provision of at least one bat box on the new extension was recommended as biodiversity enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

7/1/23 (date amended, had typed 7/7/23 previously)

I have reviewed the site photos. There are a few areas with slightly lifted tiles on the front elevation. There is also a gap under the lowest row of hanging tiles on the front elevation, next to the bricks. There appears to be a bulge in the roof tiles with a small uplift towards the ridge line on the rear elevation. This bulge could be an artifact of the photograph or could indicate a problem with the roof structure. The soffits and fascia appear to be intact.

Due to the presence of these potential bat roost features a preliminary bat roost assessment will be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/1/23

There are numerous records of bats not far from this property. The proposal will involve works to the gable end of the roof on the eastern elevation, works involving the hanging tiles on the northern elevation and a large roof light which would illuminate the hanging tiles on the northern elevation. Bats frequently use areas of hanging tiles for roosting. The hanging tiles on the southern elevation would not be affected. To determine whether a survey is required I need to review close up photos of all of the hanging tiles and the gable end of the roof including the soffits and fascia (standing next to the building if possible and looking straight up).

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. 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>)

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