

Ecology response for F/23/94642 39 FAIR OAK ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6LF

Erection of two-storey dwelling to rear garden of 39 Fair Oak Road and insertion of new first-floor bay window to rear elevation of 39 Fair Oak Road

Alex Webb

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I have reviewed the planning statement, proposed elevations and flood risk assessment. The photos of the property on Google maps do not show any vegetation on site, however this must be confirmed with photos of the site.

There is no information about surface water drainage proposals either for this dwelling or number 39 Fair Oak Road. Does 39 have a soakaway and if so, where is it located? If a soakaway is proposed for the new dwelling, it must be located at least 5 m from any built structure including fences and neighbouring buildings. I am not sure that this would be possible on this site. I am raising a holding objection until surface water drainage plans have been submitted for this proposal and for number 39.

The site is very close to the River Itchen. There are records of bats, slow worms, water voles and nesting swifts nearby.

A bat brick/box and a swift brick/box may be appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this proposed new building and for the existing dwelling at 39 Fair Oak Road. Enhancing the garden with flowering plants for pollinators, especially night-scented flowering plants would be another good enhancement.

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/>

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