

Additional Ecology response for H/23/94551 23 LUCERNE GARDENS, HEDGE END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4SD

First floor side extension

Alex Stone

11/4/23

The ecology team agrees that if bats were using this space above the front door, it would most likely be only as a temporary roost, so as long as the entrance is not obstructed by scaffolding or other work equipment and there is a clear flight path in and out, there won't need to be other restrictions. As an enhancement, a built-in bat brick is preferable to a bat box, as it does not need maintenance and cannot fall off, however a bat box will also be acceptable.

Proposed condition:

Any works must avoid obstructing the gap where the front porch roof joins the wall and maintain a clear flight path free from obstruction in this area. If this is not possible, then work must only be done when bats are least vulnerable to disturbance, either during April or between mid-September and the end of October. 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>.

Reason: To avoid disturbance to bats.

Additional information is available at: <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/things-to-consider-when-planning-works>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/4/23

I have reviewed the site photos and I only see one obvious bat roost feature. This is a gap where the front porch joins the wall just under the flashing. Although this area is close to the proposed extension over the garage, it would not be directly impacted by the construction. If this area is able to be protected during construction, so that it is not obstructed or disturbed by scaffolding or the proposed works, I think an informative would be sufficient. If the applicant and their contractor is not able to guarantee that this area would be protected from disturbance, then a preliminary bat roost assessment and possible further survey would be needed. A built-in bat brick on the south, southeast or southwest elevation would be a good enhancement for this proposal.

Please could you discuss the need to protect and keep the existing roost feature on the front porch roof with the applicant and their responsibilities under the law. If they agree, please

add the following informative to the decision notice. The Bat Conservation Trust website (<https://www.bats.org.uk/>) explains why bats are protected and what to do if you find a bat.

Informative:

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

21/2/23

There are multiple records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site. Please could you send some close-up photos of the roof, soffits, fascia and chimney flashing to determine whether any surveys or precautionary working methods will be needed.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick/box or a bird/swift 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