

Ecology response amended for H/23/94609 9 OATLANDS CLOSE, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2DF

Demolition of the garage. Two storey side extensions. Two storey rear extensions. Alteration to fenestration.

Alex Stone

3/5/23

I have reviewed the site visit photos. There is an area of hanging tiles inset into the brick wall on the (northwest) side elevation. They appear to be in good order with no obvious gaps or slipped tiles. There are no obvious gaps in the roof tiles, fascia, soffits or flashings of the house or the garage. There are hanging tiles on the front of the house with a possible gap above the front porch roof, however the proposals do not involve changes to the front of the house.

Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

Workers must remain vigilant of the potential presence of bats, not obstruct their roosts or do anything that could cause harm to a bat. Any tiles that need to be moved must be removed carefully, by hand. If bats or any signs of bats are found during construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. The Bat Conservation Trust website (<https://www.bats.org.uk/>) explains why bats are protected and what to do if you find a bat at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

A plan showing the proposed biodiversity enhancements including bat and swift bricks built into the extensions can be conditioned as a pre-commencement condition.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

20/2/23

There are at least four records of bats very close to this property with many more in the wider area. There are also records of stag beetles nearby and trees that would support nesting birds. Please could you send some close-up photos of the entire roof, the hanging tiles, soffits, fascia, flashings, window areas, existing garage and any areas of the garden that would be affected by the development?

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](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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