

Ecology response amended for H/22/94072 39 VERDON AVENUE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HW

Demolition of the existing conservatory. Full two storey rear extension. Part flat roof with lantern and pitched roof hipped. Canopy over front door. Alterations to fenestrations. Render whole house white except the first-floor front elevation which will be weatherboard cladding. All windows & doors to be grey

Claire Campbell-Best

9/5/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (February 2023). The building has been assessed as having moderate bat roost suitability due to the features noted in Table 2, page 8 and two bat presence/absence surveys are required before the application can be determined. Opportunities for nesting birds were also noted.

Once the application has been determined the following conditions can be added to the decision letter. Additional mitigation may be required if bats are roosting in this building.

Condition: If demolition of the buildings/ vegetation clearance is taking place within the breeding bird season (March to September inclusive), the buildings/vegetation must be checked for the presence of nesting birds prior to demolition/clearance. If nesting birds are found, the nest must remain undisturbed with a suitable 5 m buffer and demolition/clearance cannot take place until the young have fledged.

Reason: To protect nesting birds in line with legislation.

An integral bat box and two swift boxes as recommended in the report are appropriate biodiversity enhancements and can be conditioned. The details of the best elevations for these boxes are given in my previous response and the locations of these features should be shown on a plan.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/12/22

There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this property. The proposals will involve works to the roof. The photo of the house on Google maps shows some unevenness in the roof tiles on the front elevation. A preliminary bat roost assessment will be required. This must include an internal inspection of the loft. If the garage will be affected by the construction, as it would be very close to the new extension, then it should also be checked for bats and nesting birds. A precautionary working method for hedgehogs will be required. The bat roost assessment report

should also recommend biodiversity enhancements for this proposal. A bat brick and a swift brick might be appropriate.

Information is required on the current surface water drainage system and whether it has sufficient capacity to accommodate the extra surface water drainage from this large extension.

Information on biodiversity enhancements:

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, north-east, 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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