

Ecology Response for H/23/95021 CHESTNUT VIEW, 6 GRANGE FARM, GRANGE ROAD,
NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FF

Proposed Detached Garage

Alex Stone

2/5/23

There are records of bats very close to this site, which is also in an amber great crested newt impact risk zone. It is less than 100 m from the nearest pond, with additional ponds within 400 m from the site. West Wood Grange Field SINC is adjacent to the property. From the plans this appears to be an addition to the side of an existing building. Further details about the proposed construction and attachment to the current building are required. I can see that an application for a garage to be converted to living accommodation was approved in March 2019 (H/19/8481), but it is not clear whether this is the same garage or a different building. I can review photos of the building and the site that would be affected by the construction to determine whether a survey will be required but given the ecological sensitivity of the site and the age of the building, it is highly likely that a survey and at least a precautionary working method statement will be needed.

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.wildaboutgardens.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

<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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