

Ecology response for F/23/95122 Land at the Hanns Way Car Park, Eastleigh Town Centre,
Land at Hanns Way Car Park, Eastleigh

Construction of 4No. two-bedroom and 2No. one-bedroom apartments in a two and three storey block, with ancillary amenity space, landscaping, bin and cycle storage.

Gary Osmond

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There are records of bats and breeding swifts in this area, so built-in bat and swift bricks should be added to the building as biodiversity enhancements. These can be conditioned.

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>)

There are also hedgehogs in the neighbourhood, so any closed board fences should have hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) to allow free passage of hedgehogs through the gardens. The landscape proposals plan by Deacon Design (April 2023) is appropriate for this development. A green roof on the building and on the bin/bike store would provide an increase in green infrastructure in this area and provide additional insulation to the third storey.

A surface water drainage plan is also required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist