

Ecology response for F/23/95081 111 WINCHESTER ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 2GH

External alterations including new shopfront and the removal of existing louvers at first floor level to the side elevation

Rebecca Altman

22/5/23

There are records of roosting bats and nesting swifts very close to this site.

I have reviewed Preliminary Appraisal report by Rachel Hacking Ecology (April 2023).

The building has been assessed as having negligible potential for bats and a low risk of impacting nesting birds. No further surveys are required.

The Yew tree on site must be protected during construction.

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

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>.

Works within the bird nesting season (March through August inclusive)) should be avoided if possible. If works are required within the nesting season, then a nesting bird survey should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 48 hours in advance.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

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>)

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> )

Built in boxes are preferred to externally mounted boxes as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

The addition of planters somewhere on the site with flowering plants to attract pollinators would also be a good enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist