

Ecology response for H/23/95086 39 HIGHFIELD ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH,
SO53 2JW

Erection of first floor side extension

Claire Campbell-Best

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There are records of bats nearby. The hanging tiles on the front of the house and white fascia boards on the gable end of the house and the garage may provide gaps for crevice-dwelling bats. Please could you provide close up photos of the hanging tiles, the fascia boards and inside of the loft. Standing next to the house and looking up will give a good indication of whether there are any gaps or crevices that could allow bats to roost.

A bat brick and/or a swift brick may be appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this building. Built-in bricks or boxes are preferable to externally mounted boxes because they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

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>)

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/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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