

Ecology response amended for H/23/94697 MINAGISH, HOUND ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FZ

One and a half storey side extension with extended rear dormer, raised decking, elevational alterations and replacement porch following demolition of integral garage.

Claire Martin

6/6/23

I have reviewed the PEA by Ecological Surveys Ltd. (Rev 1, May 2023). The building has been assessed as having negligible bat roost potential, but the site has value for foraging and commuting bats. The shrubs and woodland have the capacity to support nesting birds and must be protected during construction.

A CEMP will be required and can be conditioned. This must include the precautions to protect wildlife, as detailed in the PEA report section 6.2.1. I do **not** agree with the recommendation in the PEA report that if vegetation cannot be cleared outside of nesting season it should be covered to exclude birds or reptiles. This is not an accepted practice and is not safe as animals can become trapped. If vegetation or brush piles cannot be cleared outside of bird nesting season, then they must be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately before clearance. If any active nests are found the nest must be protected from disturbance with a 5 m buffer until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest. The CIEEM and RSPB guidance states that netting should only be used under exceptional circumstances and only if all other alternatives have been exhausted. (see article on CIEEM and RSPB advise against netting available at: <https://cieem.net>).

Any vegetation/log pile/habitat that could shelter reptiles must also be removed carefully, by hand and outside of the reptile active season and the grass be kept cut short until after construction is completed so that it will not become suitable reptile habitat.

A fenced construction exclusion zone and silt fencing (such as hay bales wrapped in terram-type landscaping fabric and pegged down) must be erected before the start of works to prevent runoff and silt from the site from entering the woodland and Spear Pond Gully SINC. Silt fencing must be checked daily by the site manager and replaced immediately if damaged or breached at any time.

Re-fuelling of equipment may only be done on absorbent pads, on the drive at the front of the house and away from the slope or the woodland.

External lighting should not be used during the construction phase, or if needed to enable works, it must be shielded so that no light enters or shines on the woodland.

In addition to the CEMP a condition will be required for internal and external lighting. Light spill from the windows facing the SINC and woodland must be prevented with light reducing

glass or blackout blinds. External lighting must be avoided or minimised according to the guidelines in the report.

The recommendations for biodiversity enhancement with one bat tubes/brick and one swift brick is appropriate. Ideally the bat roost and the swift bricks would be on different elevations from each other and away from any source of light such as light spill from windows (which must also be eliminated). A bat roost needs to be exposed to the sun for part of the day, but a swift nest box should be out of direct sunlight.

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>)

Please contact the Bat Conservation Trust and Swift Conservation for more details and advice on the best position for these boxes/bricks for this specific proposal.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

21/3/23

This site includes Spear Pond Gully SINC which is a main watercourse and several very large trees. There are records of bats, swifts, hedgehogs, and stag beetles very close to this site. The trees would provide good habitat for nesting birds and possibly for roosting bats. The aerial photos available on Google Maps show vegetation near the house and garage which would be affected by the proposal. A preliminary ecological appraisal will be required. In addition, a CEMP is required to protect the watercourse and its banks, trees and associated habitat during construction.

Biodiversity enhancements will also be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate enhancements for this building.

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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/>

If new surface water drainage capacity is required due to the increase in roof area, this can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist