

Ecology response amended for H/22/94087 14 SOUTHERN ROAD, WEST END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3ER

Two storey rear and side extensions including a new porch and patio to the rear. Alterations to fenestration. Enlargement of existing garage and store. Alterations to site frontage to include widening of the existing driveway (Amended description and plans)

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I have reviewed the Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (June 2023). A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was done in December 2022 and the house was assessed to have moderate bat roost suitability. The Executive Summary section of the report states that two dusk presence/absence surveys were done in May 2023 (possible typing error?), however section 2.2.3 Table 2 confirms that both a dusk emergence and a dawn re-entry survey were done in accord with best practice guidelines. Common pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging and commuting but there were no emergences or re-entries.

Surface water drainage information has been requested but not yet provided.

The mitigation recommended for this proposal is:

In order to limit any effects on foraging and commuting bats, external lighting should be limited and used for safety purposes only, both during construction and when the extension is occupied.

The following lighting measures are required:

- Construction works between March and October should be undertaken during daylight hours only to avoid disturbance to bats that may forage and commute through or near the site.
- Lighting to the completed house and garage should be as low brightness as possible, kept at a low level and directed away from all structures and boundaries.
- Lighting on sensors should not be so sensitive that foraging bats trigger them.
- All lighting must follow the Bat Conservation Trusts and Institute of Lighting Professionals guidance on bats and artificial lighting (BCT, 2018).

The biodiversity enhancements recommended in the report include two bat boxes and two swift nest boxes. Built-in bat and swift bricks/boxes are preferred over externally mounted boxes as they do not require maintenance and cannot fall off. Bat boxes should be placed in dark locations away from windows or porch roof lanterns which light the exterior of the building. Additional guidance is available from the Bat Conservation Trust and Swift Conservation. Enhancing the garden with additional night-scented flowering plants will help attract moths and other pollinating insects as food for bats and swifts.

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.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>

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