

Ecology response 13 May 2023 for H/22/93735 2 SHARON ROAD, WEST END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3AS

Replacement Dormers to provide additional Bedroom and new front Porch

Claire Campbell-Best/Alex Webb

13/6/23

I have reviewed the Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (June 2023). Two dusk emergence surveys were carried out in May and June 2023 and the conclusion of the report was that there was no reasonable likelihood that bats would be present and affected by the proposed works. As bats move roosts, the building has medium bat roost potential and there are bats using the area please could you add the following informative 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>.

A dawn re-entry survey was not done but IR camera recording equipment was used in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Interim Guidance Note (May 2022). The wildlife-sensitive lighting recommendations, precautionary measures for breeding birds, and biodiversity enhancements have been recommended in the December 2022 report and are appropriate. Enhancements include two bat boxes and two bird nest boxes. Swift nest boxes are preferred if possible as they can be used by other birds when swifts are not using them.

Guidelines for bat boxes and bird nest boxes: Integral/built-in boxes are preferred to externally mounted boxes as they do not require 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>)

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

3/4/23

I have reviewed the updated Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment. The report states that if the application proposals change to only include the construction of a new porch, then no further surveys would be required. However, the potential bat roost features on the roof are of moderate bat roost suitability and any works to the roof will require two bat activity surveys done at least two weeks apart, during the active bat season between May and September with at least one during the peak period (May-August). It is my opinion that even works to the porch with dust, vibration and noise could disturb any bats that might be roosting in the roof and to avoid committing an offense under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, these features must be checked by dusk and dawn activity surveys.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

10/1/ 2023

I have reviewed the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment Report by Phillips Ecology (December 2022). The building has been assessed as having moderate bat roost suitability and requires two further bat surveys (emergence and re-entry). These can only be done during the active bat season between May and September with at least one during the peak period (May-August). The presence of protected species is a material consideration and must be established before the application can be determined.

Lighting recommendations, precautionary measures for breeding birds, and biodiversity enhancements have been recommended in the report and are appropriate. Enhancements include two bat boxes and two bird nest boxes. Mitigation for loss of bat roost opportunities will need to be determined after the two bat surveys. If bats are found to be present, a third survey within the same survey season will be required for a protected species mitigation license application.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist