

Ecology response for H/23/95221 114 PINE ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1JT

Loft conversion. Front and rear facing dormers. Alterations to fenestration (Resubmission H/22/93498)

26/6/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by Ecosupport (October 2022) and the Phase II Bat survey report by Ecosupport (May 2023).

The building was assessed to have low potential for roosting bats and there was potential for foraging and commuting badgers and low potential for breeding and nesting birds in the garden.

The assessment of low potential for roosting bats was based on gaps beneath the lead flashing and in the mortar on the northern elevation.

The Phase II bat survey report showed moderate level of bats foraging and commuting in the area, but there were no emergences from the building.

A bat access tile was proposed as a biodiversity enhancement in the original PEA report and a non-snagging roofing membrane was recommended to be used. Recommendations for wildlife sensitive lighting have been given in the report if any external lighting is needed.

In the Phase II report one externally mounted bat box has been recommended, to be mounted on a suitable location around the site as a biodiversity enhancement. If a south, south eastern or south western elevation is available on a gable end, a built-in bat brick or bat tube would be appropriate. These built-in features would not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

If no suitable location is found for the bat box/brick/tube, then a bat access tile is still a good option. The ecological consultant must determine the best location for whichever bat roost feature is used. This can be conditioned.

Enhancing the garden with night-scented flowering plants will also attract moths as food for bats. Other flowering plants for pollinators would also enhance the garden.

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>.

The following resources may also be helpful:

<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>

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