

Ecology response amended for F/23/95271 17 O'CONNELL ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9GN

Erection of new [3.no](#) bedroom detached dwelling on site of existing workshop/store

Alex Webb

10/7/23

The site photos show that both the existing store building, the shrubs/hedgerow and area of vines have potential to support nesting birds, and possibly foraging bats. The area around the site boundaries have potential to support hedgehogs and possibly toads and slow worms. A preliminary ecological appraisal is required before determination. The report should also include a precautionary working method, and biodiversity enhancements appropriate for this site. A surface water drainage plan will also be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

26/6/23

There are records of bats, hedgehogs, common toads, grass snakes, adders and slow worms near this site. The site is approximately 150 m east of Monk's Brook, which is a tributary of the River Itchen, although Passfield Avenue would be a barrier between the site and Monk's Brook.

To determine whether an ecological survey is required I need to review photos of the site, the workshop building to be demolished and any area of the garden that would be impacted by this proposal.

An explanation of the proposed surface water drainage system is required. During construction any sediment or pollutants must be prevented from being washed off site to avoid any contamination of Monk's Brook.

Any closed board fences must have hedgehog openings in the base boards (13 x 13 cm minimum) to allow free passage of small animals through the garden.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for the east and west gable ends of this building.

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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