

Ecology response for H/23/95217 HEATHFIELD, 44 HEATH HOUSE LANE, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0LE

To demolish the existing conservatory. Two storey side extensions.

Claire Campbell-Best

17/7/23

There are records of bats, hedgehogs and slow worms near this site. I have reviewed the site photos and do not see any potential bat roost features. Aerial photos from Google maps (2023) show that there is no suitable habitat for reptiles or hedgehogs in the area of impact of the proposal. The proposed extension would block the existing access to the rear garden for hedgehogs so it is recommended that hedgehog openings (13 x 13 cm minimum) be added to the baseboards of the existing fences.

Any excavations or open pipes will need to be covered at night or provided with a small mammal escape ramp to allow animals such as hedgehogs to escape if they fall in. If hedgehogs or slow worms are found on site, they must not be handled but be allowed to move away to safety on their own.

If any hedgehogs appear to be in distress, a hedgehog rescue worker should be contacted. Information is available on the website of the British Hedgehog Preservation society at <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/found-a-hedgehog/>.

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>.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A swift brick/nest box may be appropriate for this building. The rear elevation would be facing north and more suitable for a swift brick. The photo of the house on Google maps photo shows a streetlamp on the corner of Heath House Lane and Sherwood Avenue and another across Sherwood Avenue, so there may be too much light for a bat box on this building. Enhancing the garden for birds, pollinators and hedgehogs may be a possibility.

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://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist