

Additional Ecology response for H/22/94072 39 VERDON AVENUE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HW

Demolition of the existing conservatory. Full two storey rear extension. Part flat roof with lantern and pitched roof hipped. Canopy over front door. Alterations to fenestrations. Render whole house white except the first-floor front elevation which will be weatherboard cladding. All windows & doors to be grey

Claire Campbell-Best

1/8/23

The updated Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (July 2023) has been submitted. There were no bats seen emerging or re-entering the building on the two bat presence/absence surveys. The report recommends a built-in bat box, and two swift boxes as biodiversity enhancements. Built-in (integral) boxes do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

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>.

From the report: Care should be taken that the development does not disturb breeding birds. The bird nesting season is taken to be March to August inclusive. Any removal of suitable nest habitat will either need to be undertaken outside of this period or else checked to ensure that no nesting birds are present. If occupied nests are present, then the nest must not be removed and works around the nest can only recommence once the nest becomes unoccupied of its own accord.

If any exterior lighting is required it must not shine on any vegetation, or on the bat boxes or swift boxes. It must *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.* Light spill from the roof light on the rear elevation has the potential to illuminate any bat or bird boxes on the rear elevation so it should either be shaded at night or this elevation should not be used for bat or bird boxes.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

9/5/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (February 2023). The building has been assessed as having moderate bat roost suitability due to the

features noted in Table 2, page 8 and two bat presence/absence surveys are required before the application can be determined. Opportunities for nesting birds were also noted.

Once the application has been determined the following conditions can be added to the decision letter. Additional mitigation may be required if bats are roosting in this building.

Condition: If demolition of the buildings/ vegetation clearance is taking place within the breeding bird season (March to September inclusive), the buildings/vegetation must be checked for the presence of nesting birds prior to demolition/clearance. If nesting birds are found, the nest must remain undisturbed with a suitable 5 m buffer and demolition/clearance cannot take place until the young have fledged.

Reason: To protect nesting birds in line with legislation.

An integral bat box and two swift boxes as recommended in the report are appropriate biodiversity enhancements and can be conditioned. The details of the best elevations for these boxes are given in my previous response and the locations of these features should be shown on a plan.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/12/22

There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this property. The proposals will involve works to the roof. The photo of the house on Google maps shows some unevenness in the roof tiles on the front elevation. A preliminary bat roost assessment will be required. This must include an internal inspection of the loft. If the garage will be affected by the construction, as it would be very close to the new extension, then it should also be checked for bats and nesting birds. A precautionary working method for hedgehogs will be required. The bat roost assessment report should also recommend biodiversity enhancements for this proposal. A bat brick and a swift brick might be appropriate.

Information is required on the current surface water drainage system and whether it has sufficient capacity to accommodate the extra surface water drainage from this large extension.

Information on biodiversity enhancements:

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, north-east, 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.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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist