

Ecology response for F/23/95415 107-109 LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9DR

Conversion of offices into 2no. dwelling houses (Class C3), including associated external alterations and bin and cycle stores.

Summer Sharpe

7/8/23

There are records of bats, swifts, and hedgehogs near this site. The only changes that appear to be proposed are changing a window to a door on the side elevation of number 107 and changing some internal walls. The aerial photo on Google maps shows that the land at the rear of the property appears to be paved and used for parking. Parking spaces and metal bike stores are proposed at the southern boundary of the site. The amenity space proposed for each dwelling is a narrow strip to the sides of each building.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for these dwellings. A green roof on the bike sheds or the single storey extensions, and some flowering plants in the front gardens would provide some resources for pollinators, and night scented flowering plants would attract moths as food for bats.

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](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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist