

Additional Ecology response for F/23/95681 46 TWYFORD ROAD, EASTLEIGH

Erection of two storey block of 3 x 1- bedroom apartments

Summer Sharpe

18/9/23

I have reviewed the amended Updated Ecological Appraisal report (September 2023). All previous concerns have been addressed and the mitigation and biodiversity enhancement recommendations in the report are now appropriate for this site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

11/9/23

I have reviewed the Updated Ecological Appraisal report by Aluco Ecology (August 2023). Although no evidence of bats was found during the preliminary bat roost assessment or the emergence survey, bats were seen foraging to the north of the site and there are numerous records on our system of bats in the area.

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>.

Exterior lighting if required, must conform to the latest (2023) guidance, Institution of Lighting Professionals, Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night rather than the superceded 2018 guidance cited in the Aluco report.

The report recommends provision of a swift nest box on the southern elevation and a bat roost unit on the north elevation however this is opposite to the guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust and Swift Conservation and needs to be revised. Built-in features such as bat bricks and swift bricks do not require maintenance and cannot fall off.

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>)

A pond was proposed as an additional biodiversity enhancement. Given the limited outdoor space available and the maintenance requirements of a pond I think that it is less likely to be successful as a biodiversity enhancement in this development.

My preference would be for more flowering plants, with greater diversity, and providing a longer flowering season and including night-scented flowering plants which will attract moths as food for bats rather than a pond. Shrubs which provide small fruits could attract birds also.

The following web pages provide suggestions on planting to attract bats and pollinators:

<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>

A landscaping plan can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist