

Ecology response for H/23/95934 34 WHALESMEAD ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8HH

Single storey rear extension, raised decking in rear garden and alteration to existing fenestration

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The existing building is approximately 50 m from the edge of the woodland and 70 m from the edge of the watercourse. There are records of common toads, bats, swifts, hedgehogs, and stag beetles near this site. It is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts.

I need to review close-up photos of the existing elevations, the existing windows and the roof, soffits, fascia, and flashings and of the garden to determine whether a preliminary ecological appraisal is required. What is the actual distance between the end of the proposed decking and the woodland edge?

A surface water drainage plan will be required.

A precautionary working method to protect the species listed above will be required. This can be conditioned in a CEMP.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick/box, bird nest box, hedgehog home, stag beetle habitat and/or planting for pollinators may be appropriate for this application.

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>)

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.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

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