

Ecology response amended for H/23/95762 28 SEDGWICK ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6FH

First floor side and single storey front extensions to form new porch, loft conversion with rear dormer and replacement single storey garage. (Resubmission of application H/17/82138).

Claire Campbell-Best

20/9/23

As this is a retrospective application, disturbance of any bat roost features on the roof or in the loft would have already occurred. The site visit photos show potential habitat for hedgehogs and nesting birds in the garden. Nesting birds could also use the garage.

Any further site clearance and demolition of the garage must be done outside of bird nesting season (i.e. done between September and February to avoid nesting season from March to August) or immediately after a check for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Clearance of building materials and vegetation should be done by hand not by machine. No fires should be lit on site. If hedgehogs or stag beetles are found on site, they should not be handled but be left to move away to a place of safety on their own.

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>.

Any closed board fencing must include at least 2 gaps on each side (13x 13 cm minimum) to allow free passage of hedgehogs through the site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

7/9/23

There are numerous records of bats in the immediate area and these proposals involve extensive works to the roof and loft. There are also records of hedgehogs and stag beetles. To determine whether a survey is required I need to review close-up photos of the roof, soffits, fascia, areas around the windows and flashings. Photos of the garage and garden are also required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building.

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> )

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