

Ecology response amended for H/23/94807 48A BROWNHILL ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 2EE

Partial garage conversion, raise ridge height of roof to create first floor, single storey front extension, extend rear terrace and change flat roof to gable roof at the front

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

20/9/23

I have reviewed the Bat Survey Report by Calyx Environmental Ltd (September 2023). One bat dropping identified as being from a brown long-eared bat was found in the loft. No evidence of bats was found in the below floor level storage space. No bats were seen emerging on the dusk emergence survey or on the video from the infra red camera. No bat calls were recorded on the static bat logger.

The report recommends that *as bats may use roosts on an ad hoc basis, it is never possible to completely rule out presence*, however this single dropping is likely to have been a bat investigating use of the building as a roost, rather than bats roosting at this site.

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>.

*All site personnel must be made aware of the strict protection afforded to bats and the need to stop work and seek further advice from a licensed bat specialist if a bat is discovered.*

If work has not started within 18 months of the report date, an update bat survey will be required.

A built-in bat box or bat tube is required to replace bat roost opportunities lost to the development.

The gap in the soffit where blue tits have been reported nesting should be blocked before the bird nesting season if works are likely to take place within this period. A nest box suitable for blue tits must be installed on the mature oak in the rear garden to replace the nest site in the house which was used by blue tits.

A built-in swift nest box is recommended as a biodiversity enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

22/5/23

There are records of breeding swifts, bats, and hedgehogs near this site. It is adjacent to a stream. It is not possible to visualise the roof due to the distance between the neighbouring houses. A Preliminary Bat roost Assessment is required including an internal inspection of the loft.

Biodiversity enhancements must be provided. Hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) must be added to the baseboards of the closed board fencing, a bat box and swift nest box can be built into the first floor extension, and flowering plants and shrubs to attract pollinators can be added to the garden. The ecologist providing the survey can recommend the best enhancements for this situation.

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