

Ecology response for H/23/95801 NAKURU ROOT, BOTLEY ROAD, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7AN

First floor front extension over existing garden room, enlargement of existing front dormer and Juliet balcony (Retrospective)

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25/9/23

This property is within a red impact risk zone for great crested newts, with records of great crested newts, slow worms, grass snakes, common lizards and toads in the vicinity. There are records of bats roosting very close to this site and hedgehogs in the neighbourhood.

It is possible that potential bat or bird roost features may have been affected by this development but we have no way of determining this now.

Two bat boxes and two swift nest boxes or sparrow terraces are required as mitigation and biodiversity enhancements.

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> )

The applicants must be made aware of these nearby records of protected species and their responsibilities under the wildlife laws in case of any future applications or permitted development.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) is the primary legislation that protects wild animals, plants, and habitats in the UK. It lists the species which are protected by law along with their resting places and the non-native invasive species which must not be allowed to spread into the wild. If you suspect that protected or invasive species may be affected by your development, it is your responsibility to get an ecology survey and implement the recommended mitigation measures.

The following resources may be helpful:

The Wildlife Trusts <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/uk-wildlife-law>

Bat Conservation Trust <https://www.bats.org.uk/>

CIEEM <https://cieem.net/i-need/finding-a-consultant/>

Crown Prosecution Service *Wildlife Offences* available at: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/wildlife-offences>

Great crested newts and all reptiles (slow worms, common lizards and grass snakes) are protected species in the UK and common toads are priority species that are in decline. They are frequently found under piles of brush or in compost heaps. If these need to be moved, dismantling them carefully using only hand tools is advised.

The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust has some helpful information on their website (<https://www.arc-trust.org/legislative-protection-for-the-uks-herpetofauna>).

Further information for additional biodiversity enhancements:

<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/>

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