

Additional Ecology response for H/23/95586 31 FALCON SQUARE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9JF

Two storey side and single storey rear extension

Clare Martin

3/10/23

I have reviewed the PRA letter report by SoEcology (no date but assumed to be September 2023). The applicant is amending the application to remove the two-storey side extension, so it will only include a single storey rear extension and not impact the roof.

The roof was assessed to have moderate suitability for roosting bats. If the two- storey extension is re-considered, at least two bat activity (Phase two) surveys would be required. These can only be done between May and September.

The rear extension has one feature with low potential for roosting bats. There is no evidence that it has been used by bats, however they could potentially use it in the future. The lean-to also has potential to support nesting birds which are considered likely absent at this point.

I support the recommendation that the lean-to containing this feature be removed in the winter only (November to February) so that future occupation by bats and nesting birds would not be possible. This can be conditioned. The precautionary working method statement can also be conditioned.

Exterior lighting should be avoided if possible but if required for security purposes, should follow the most current bat-sensitive lighting guidelines (Institute of Lighting Professionals guidance note 08/23).

A bat box, a bird box and planting for pollinators are recommended as biodiversity enhancements.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

5/9/23

I have reviewed the site photos. There are certainly some potential bat roost features on the roof which will need to be checked. A preliminary bat roost appraisal is required.

The garden appears to be closely mown amenity grass with a small area of artificial grass next to the shed. I don't think there is suitable habitat for hedgehogs, amphibians or reptiles on site, however they may be nearby, so a precautionary working method will be required. This involves keeping excavations and pipes covered at night or providing a small animal escape ramp at night in the form of a slanted roughened board, keeping piles of materials

on hardstanding only and a general awareness of procedures to follow if any of these species are found on site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

29/8/23

There are records of bats, hedgehogs, swifts, grass snakes, common toads, adders and slow worms nearby. This site is on a boundary between amber and green great crested newt impact risk zones. There are also records of otters along the Monks Brook which is located approximately 100 m to the east of this site.

To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of the roof, soffits, fascia, flashings, areas around the windows and the garden of the house.

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](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