

Ecology response for H/23/95942 13 WAVERLEY AVENUE, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5AR

Demolition of existing conservatory, proposed replacement single storey rear extension and rear side roof dormer to facilitate new roof conversion.

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5/10/23

I have reviewed the Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (August 2023). The house supports a brown long-eared bat transitional roost, and a bat mitigation class licence will be required to enable the development to proceed.

The mitigation strategy *comprises the provision of replacement roost opportunities which are proportionate to the scale of impact and the removal of roost features by hand, under the supervision of a licenced bat worker to ensure that individual bats are not killed or injured.* This is explained in detail in sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 of the report.

Modified roof tiles to create a void where bats can roost between the tiles and a traditional bitumen (not breathable) roof membrane are recommended in section 5.2.3. Brown long-eared bats require an area of the loft void where they can fly around inside before emerging. Further information on the size and shape of the replacement void is required.

The latest UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (September 2023) are available at <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Bat-Mitigation-Guidelines-2023.pdf>. Section 6.3.11 provides the appropriate guidance and cites the earlier work by Mitchell-Jones (2004) for loft void sizes and access point requirements.

Previous biodiversity enhancement information was given in the response to the previous application H/22/94325. *Additional bat boxes and swift nest boxes/swift bricks are appropriate biodiversity enhancements, but these would be in addition to the required mitigation. Adding flowering plants for pollinators to the garden is a good biodiversity enhancement. Night-flowering scented plants will also attract insects as food for bats.*

If any exterior lighting is required for security purposes, it must accord with the latest lighting guidance (Guidance note 08/23) rather than the 2018 guidance.

The positions of the proposed 2 bat boxes and 2 swift nest boxes must be shown on the plan to ensure that they are facing the correct directions for these species and will not be affected by light shining up from the roof lights in the proposed extension.

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>)

Lisa Malter

Ecologist