

Additional Ecology response for H/23/96042 44 WINCHESTER STREET, BOTLEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2AA

Erection of two storey and single storey rear extension with alterations to the fenestration

Alex Stone

9/10/23

I have reviewed the site photos. In addition to bats, there are records of slow worms and hedgehogs nearby and the site photos show potential slow worm and hedgehog habitat on site. There may also be stag beetles. A precautionary working method is required during construction to avoid harm to these species. Any trenches, open pipes or excavations must be covered at night have a small animal escape ramp (rough slanted board) to allow small animals to escape if they fall in. This must be provided before any further work occurs on site.

The photos show that diggers have been working on site, with trenches dug and piles of spoil and materials are on site which could also provide habitat for wildlife. The rear elevation of the house has openings where bats could enter particularly gaps in exterior brick work above and around the white door on the first floor. There may be entrance points for bats and nesting birds under the soffits. There is what looks like an ornamental pond in the garden and areas of scrub, ruderal vegetation and trees near the house which could have potential bat roost features. There may be some areas of raised tiles on the roof, but this is difficult to determine from these photos. There are many gaps in roof tiles in the shed/garage. The vegetation at the front of the house would also provide habitat for nesting birds and hedgehogs.

A preliminary ecological appraisal is required before determination. This can be done at any time of year. No further work should be done on this site as it could affect protected species. It is clear from the photos that some of the building has already been removed without planning permission and this might have included areas with bat roosting potential. The ecologist who does this survey should also provide specific recommendations of biodiversity enhancements for this site.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

3/10/23

There are records of bats near this house and the house is not visible on Google Maps street view. There is a photo on the elevations plan but I am not able to open the downloaded version to see the photo properly. I need to review photos of the area impacted by this proposal to determine whether further surveys are needed.

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