

Ecology response for H/23/96050 20 CROWSPORT, HAMBLE-LE-RICE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HG

Erection of first floor extension with roof terrace and single storey side extension

Clare Martin

23/10/23

In addition to the application description, the proposed site plan shows changes to the site access and moving the entrance further east, closer to the garage. This will involve moving the planted boundary hedge and some fencing, and replacing it with a 1.2 m rendered wall.

There are records of bats, swifts and hedgehogs near this property. A precautionary working method for nesting birds and hedgehogs is required. This will include keeping any piles of materials either on hard standing or raised on pallets and avoiding the accumulation of piles of vegetation on site where hedgehogs could shelter under them. Any excavations and open pipes must be covered at night or fitted with small mammal escape ramps (rough slanted boards) to prevent entrapment. No fires should be lit on site.

Any trees or shrubs that might support nesting birds must be removed outside of nesting bird season which is from March through August or under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. If an active nest is found, all work must stop and the nest must be protected from disturbance by a 5 m buffer until after the young have fledged and left the nest.

The building is unlikely to support roosting bats, but the fascia boards may have some gaps which could be used by crevice-dwelling bats. Please add the following informative to the decision letter:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. 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>.

Landscaping should include flowering and fruiting plants and shrubs rather than conifers to provide opportunities for invertebrates and other wildlife.

The concrete drive and parking area are proposed to be replaced with buff block paving which should provide additional drainage, and the existing (assumed) soakaway will not be affected by this proposal.

Biodiversity enhancements are required. Bat bricks/boxes and swift bricks/boxes would be appropriate additions to the building. Built-in roost/nest sites are preferable to externally mounted boxes as they do not fall off and do not require maintenance.

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.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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist