

Ecology response for F/23/96419 WEST END COTTAGE, SWAYTHLING ROAD, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO18 3HT

Erection of [1.no](#) 3-bedroom dwelling with associated parking, bin/bike storage & boundary treatments.

Rachael Morris

27/11/23

There are records of badgers, bats, swifts, and stag beetles in this area and the site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. Although the Design and Access Statement states that the majority of the site is tarmac there appears to be vegetation remaining around the perimeter of the site. The proposed site entrance and gate appears to cut through the root protection zone of at least two trees and one car parking space is proposed in the root protection zone of two trees on the southeastern boundary.

Any closed board fencing must contain at least two holes (15x 15 cm minimum) in the baseboards to allow free passage of small mammals.

A surface water drainage plan is required. Given the constrained nature of this site, the surface water drainage strategy must be provided before determination to ensure that it is feasible.

Biodiversity net gain must be provided. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this building. The bike and bin stores could be designed with green roofs to provide more planting for pollinators on site.

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