

Additional ecology response for F/23/95821 OAKWOOD COURT, OAKWOOD CLOSE,
CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5NX

Addition of new flat roof mounted on the existing parapet wall.

Clare Martin

28/11/23

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (November 2023). The building is classified as having negligible bat roost suitability however there are a few potential external roosting locations such as cracks in the mortar above a window and gaps under the edges of the roofing material which could be used by bats but were too high up to check. This will require a pre-works check by a suitably qualified ecologist using an endoscope at roof level (via scaffolding) at any time of year, or as an alternative a pre-works emergence check can be done between May and August/September. As the building is assessed to have negligible bat roost suitability, these checks can be conditioned.

Recommended condition:

Before the start of works, the potential bat roost features identified in the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (November 2023) must be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist, either using an endoscope (any time of year) or with an emergence survey (during the bat survey season, May through August/September). If these features are found to be suitable for use by bats, then appropriate mitigation must be recommended by the ecologist and approved by the local planning authority before work can continue. If any bats are found during these checks, a license from Natural England will be required before work can proceed.

As biodiversity enhancements the report recommends two swift nest boxes attached to the house and one Woodstone bird box (or similar) attached to a mature tree in the garden. Additional planting to attract pollinators and other wildlife as mentioned in Appendix C of the report is encouraged.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

18/9/23

There are records of bats very close to this site and the work involves changes to the roof. A preliminary bat roost appraisal is required before determination.

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