

Ecology response amended for H/23/96282 11 OAKMOUNT AVENUE, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 3AB

Two storey side and rear extension with raised decking in rear garden

Claire Campbell-Best

27/11/23

I have reviewed the site photos. There are two potential bat roost features on the rear elevation of the building which should be checked by a bat-licensed ecologist. A preliminary bat roost appraisal is required. The ecologist's report can also provide the precautionary working method statements. The presence of protected species is a material condition and must be determined before planning permission can be granted.

This proposal would replace a vegetated garden with an extension and raised decking which would decrease biodiversity on site. It is not clear whether the trees and shrubs would be removed under this proposal, but biodiversity net gain rather than net loss is required. This can be demonstrated in a biodiversity enhancement plan, which can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

2/11/23

This site is in an amber great crested newt impact risk zone. There are records of bats and hedgehogs very close to the site, and common toads in the neighbourhood.

The proposal involves the roof on the side and rear elevations and would replace the existing single storey extensions. To determine whether further survey is required I need to review photos of the entire roof, soffits, fascia, and the garden areas which would be impacted by the extension. How much of the garden would be covered by this proposal including the decking?

A precautionary working method statement for bats, amphibians and hedgehogs will be required.

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/>

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