

Ecology response for F/23/96368 59 LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9DF

Two storey rear extension and part conversion of building to create 2no. one bed and 1no. two bed flats with associated cycle parking and landscaping. The first floor office at the front of the building is to be retained within this application.

Clare Martin

7/12/23

I have reviewed the site photos. I don't see any potential bat roosting or bird nesting features. There is no vegetation on site other than small amounts of moss, so any garden areas would provide biodiversity enhancement.

Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

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

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

24/11/23

There are numerous records of bats very close to this site. There are also records of nesting swifts and hedgehogs nearby. Although the extension roof is proposed to be lower than the main building, site photos are required to determine whether there is any potential habitat for bats and nesting birds, and which could be disturbed by the proposed construction.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building. In addition, the proposed small garden areas can be planted with flowering plants and shrubs to attract pollinators.

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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Ecologist