

Ecology response for H/23/96533 HACKETTS, HIGH STREET, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DL

Second floor extension and remodelling of the existing exterior, following the removal of the existing roof.

Clare Martin

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There are records of bats, great crested newts, and hedgehogs very close to this site. From the photos in the Planning Statement, it is not possible to see whether there are any potential bat roost features. Since the proposal will involve removing the entire roof, a preliminary bat roost appraisal including an internal inspection of the loft spaces is required.

Precautionary working methods will also be required to avoid harm to great crested newts and hedgehogs. As this is a second-floor extension only, the working method will be limited to keeping materials storage on hard standing and disposal of construction waste so that it does not become habitat for hedgehogs and terrestrial great crested newts or other small animals. No fires are to be lit on site.

Biodiversity enhancements are required. Appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this proposal should be included in the bat roost assessment report. The building may be suitable for a bat brick and a swift brick. Built-in boxes/bricks are preferred over externally mounted boxes as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

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/>

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

[My garden - People's Trust for Endangered Species \(ptes.org\)](#) <https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist