

Ecology response amended for H/23/96466 1 GAINSBOROUGH COTTAGES, WINCHESTER ROAD, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO32 2DH

One and a half storey side extension with 1no. front dormer window

Claire Campbell-Best

4/1/24

I have reviewed the photos provided by the agent. There are some potential bat roost features on the roof, and a gap in the flashing at the base of the chimney. The fascia and soffits appear to have been replaced, although there may still be a gap where they join at the corner of the house. The photo of the hedge shows that it is quite dense and would provide suitable habitat for terrestrial amphibians, hedgehogs and nesting birds. It would also provide a linear feature for foraging and commuting bats.

A preliminary ecological appraisal will be required, including an internal inspection of the loft. The report should include biodiversity enhancements suitable for this property.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/12/23

This property is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts with records of bats, stag beetles, and hedgehogs nearby. The area proposed for the extension is currently a gravel driveway, with a tall hedge along the northern boundary. Photos of this side elevation and the rear elevations of the house are required to determine whether any potential bat roost features would be affected by the proposal. Photos must include the soffits, fascia, flashing around the chimney and the existing rear extension, as well as the area of the proposed front dormer window.

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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