

Ecology response for H/23/96597 149 LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9DW

Two storey side extensions. Single storey rear extension. Removal of existing chimneys and to be replaced with flue. New front and rear porch. Alterations to fenestration. New garage. Driveway.

Claire Campbell-Best

15/1/24

There are records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site and the proposal involves extensive work to the roof. There are records of nesting swifts in the wider vicinity. Close up photos taken in good light are required to determine whether a preliminary bat roost assessment is required. The photos must include all areas of the roof, chimneys, all elevations, soffits, fascia, flashings, rear garden and any trees which would be impacted by construction.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick/box and a swift brick/box 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/>

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

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist