

Ecology response for H/23/94991 7 SCOTLAND CLOSE, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7BQ

Demolition of the existing rear extension. New single and two storey rear and side extensions. Internal alterations. Demolition of the existing porch and replace with new open oak framed porch. Alterations to fenestration. New terrace.

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There are records of bats very close to this property. The proposed two storey extension will affect the roof. I need to review close-up photos of the entire roof, soffits, fascia, porch, chimney, and all elevations of the building to determine whether a bat survey will be required. Photos of the soffits and fascia should be taken standing as close as possible to the building and looking upwards. Will the garage be affected by the proposals, or noise or disturbance during construction work?

The proposed extension may require changes to the surface water drainage plans. Are there soakaways currently in use, and if so, where are they located? Please explain the current surface water drainage system. A soakaway must be located at least 5 m from any built structure including fences and buildings in neighbouring properties. It is not clear that there would be enough room to relocate a soakaway in the rear garden.

The photo in the DAS shows that all vegetation has been removed from the rear garden next to the house.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building. The garden can be enhanced with flowering plants and shrubs to attract pollinators, especially night scented flowering plants to attract moths as food for bats.

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/>

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