

Ecology response for F/24/96667 7A LOWER NORTHAM ROAD, HEDGE END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4FN

Installation of an Air conditioning unit externally on the rear wall of the service yard area

Rachael Morris

18/1/24

There are records of bats and nesting birds in this area, however I don't see any features which would be used by bats or nesting birds on the rear of this building. There are nesting swifts in the wider area.

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>.

Biodiversity enhancements are required, however, bat boxes and bird boxes should not be located near air conditioning units. If there is another location on the building such as on an upper storey, where either would be appropriate the following guidelines should be used:

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. I don't see anywhere on this building which would be appropriate for swifts, but another elevation might have the right conditions. (<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>)

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist