

Ecology response 4 3 26 for H/26/100854 16 CUMBERLAND CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 2JY

Demolition of existing sunroom to create a single storey rear extension

Alexandra Stone

4/3/26

I have reviewed the site photos. There is an area of hanging tiles just above the existing sunroom, but they appear to be in good condition with no slipped or missing tiles. There are no visible gaps in the fascia or soffits, so I don't see any obvious potential bat roost features.

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 informed. 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>.

I don't see any suitable habitat for hedgehogs that would be affected by the proposal. Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

The swift nest box on the proposal is in a good location, but the bat box on the southern elevation would be located above the roof lights of the rear extension and between two windows where light spill could be an issue. In this case, it would be better to have two swift nest boxes or a swift nest box and a bat box (but not next to each other) on the western elevation rather than the bat box on the southern elevation. The raised beds should include some plants for pollinators to attract insects as food for birds and bats.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

16/2/26

There are records of bats and hedgehogs nearby.

To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of all areas of the rear elevation especially any hanging tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings.

Photos of any areas of the garden affected by the proposal are also required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. A bat box and a swift nest 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/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist