

Ecology response 10 3 26 for H/26/100971 38A WILDERN LANE, HEDGE END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 4EH

Loft conversion with 2 velux windows to the front elevation and a new dormer to the rear elevation.

Gina Aftanas

10/3/26

I have reviewed the site photos. I don't see any potential bat roost features on the building. The garden appears to be covered in artificial turf, so there is no potential habitat for great crested newts or hedgehogs.

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>.

Biodiversity enhancements can be agreed before determination or can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

9/3/26

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, badgers 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 roof, fascia, soffits (standing next to building and looking upwards), flashings, hanging tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings.

The Bats and Buildings brochure from the Bat Conservation Trust (<https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Bats-and-Buildings.pdf?v=1634310101>) has a very good diagram to show places bats may use in buildings on page 3 of the brochure.

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>)

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>

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Ecologist