

Ecology response for H/26/100876 5 FRYERN CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 2LF

Erection of a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension

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There are records of bats and hedgehogs in the wider area and nesting swifts very close to this site. The western edge of the site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts.

The aerial photo of the site on Google maps (imagery date 2026) shows that most of the site has been completely cleared to bare soil but the street view photo (image capture July 2025) shows grass and scrub (mostly bramble) with some ruderal vegetation.

I have reviewed the photos of the building available on Google maps and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PEA/PRA) by Arbtech (March 2026). The photos in the PEA/PRA shows the site as vegetated because the report is based on a baseline habitat condition survey done in April 2025 for two earlier planning applications: F/25/99073 and F/25/99379.

The report states that the work would not have significant impacts on bats. It recommends precautionary working methods for hedgehogs and nesting birds, a CEMP, and a precautionary inspection of features prior to the start of works including an endoscopic inspection of the soffit box before the start of works. This is appropriate and can be conditioned.

In the event of any bats being found anywhere on-site 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>.

The **precautionary working method** recommended in the report is satisfactory. It includes the following:

- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- Any pipework exceeding 100mm will be capped overnight.
- The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use.
- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
- If any animals are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.

It must also include that no fires can be lit on site.

As the previously vegetated garden has been cleared in advance of the application, and a portion of the garden will be lost to development, some vegetation must be restored. As a householder application it is not required to provide 10% biodiversity net gain, however some biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. A bat brick/ box and a swift brick/nest box may be appropriate for this building. Built-in features are preferred to externally mounted boxes as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

The report also recommends creation of fence gaps (14cm x 14cm) in the baseboards of any new closed board fencing to enable small mammals to travel freely through the site,

An **ecological enhancement plan** must be submitted before determination to show the locations of these features (swift or sparrow nest bricks, bat bricks, fence gaps for hedgehogs, wildlife sensitive exterior lighting, and flowering plants).

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](http://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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