

Ecology response for H/26/101570 57 WOOLSTON ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5FR

Erection of two-storey side extension with open front porch and alterations to the fenestration.

Rachael Morris

1/7/26

There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this site with nesting swifts in the wider area.

I have reviewed the PEA and Phase II Bat Surveys report by South Coast Ecology (June 2026). The building was assessed to be unlikely to support roosting bats. There was an active bird's nest recorded during the survey and suitable habitat for hedgehogs and badgers was found on site.

The mitigation and enhancements recommended in the report are appropriate and must be implemented.

Please could you add the following informatives 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>.

New exterior lighting should be avoided, but if necessary for security purposes, then the latest updated lighting guidance note (GN08/23) should be followed. This is available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](https://www.theilp.org.uk/Guidance%20Note%208%20Bats%20and%20Artificial%20Lighting).

To protect small animals such as hedgehogs from harm during construction:

All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.

Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp

No fires can be lit on site.

Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Any chemicals and fuels must be stored carefully and away from potential wildlife habitat.

Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

If new fencing is to be installed around the site boundaries, small gaps should be left at the base of the fence to allow continued connectivity. 13cm by 13cm square is sufficient for any hedgehog to pass through.

To protect nesting birds:

If works to tie the new extension into the existing roof or any clearance of vegetation take place within nesting bird season (i.e. between March – September) a nesting bird check will be undertaken prior to works to confirm the identified nest is no longer active. If a nest is found a 5m buffer will be established within which works will not be able to take place until an ecologist has confirmed that the chicks have fledged and the nest is no longer active.

The ecological enhancements recommended in section 7 include:

At least 3 woodcrete bird nest boxes erected on site

A bat brick/ box built into the new extension. As the southern elevation is not available, and the side elevation is north facing, the bat box should be built into the rear western elevation or the front eastern elevation.

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))

Lisa Malter

Ecologist