

Ecology response 6 7 26 for H/25/100224 47 VERDON AVENUE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HW

First-floor side extension with single-storey rear extension

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

6/7/26

I have reviewed the Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Survey report by Ecosupport (July 2026). Two emergence surveys were conducted, and no bats were seen emerging or roosting in the building. There were foraging and commuting bats along the eastern boundary and along Verdon Avenue. The low impact lighting strategy and a built-in bat box recommended in the report are appropriate and must be implemented. The eco bat box by the nest box company is an externally mounted bat box which would not be as long-lived as an integrated (built-in) box which was recommended in the report. The left side elevation as shown on the plan is suitable, but a built-in bat brick or similar permanent bat box is strongly recommended as it does not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

Additional information on biodiversity enhancements 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

10/2/26

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) by Arbtech (January 2026). There were frequent gaps in the roof tiles of the house (B1) with some tears in the roof underlining visible in the loft. The building has been assessed to have moderate bat roost potential which requires at least two bat emergence surveys. The presence of protected species is a material consideration and must be established before determination.

As recommended in the report, these two surveys must be done during the active bat season, May-August, at least three weeks apart. Ideally, they should be done between May and July to ensure that the pipistrelle bat maternity season is not missed. If any bats are seen emerging on the first two surveys, a third survey during the same season will be required to inform a mitigation license application (EPSL) to Natural England. Doing the first two surveys early enough in the season will allow enough time for the third survey, if required. A license application can only be submitted after planning permission has been granted with surveys done within the same year as the license application.

A wildlife-sensitive low impact lighting strategy has been recommended if any additional external lighting is required.

Recommendations for specific mitigation or enhancements for bats will be provided with the bat survey report.

There is potential for nesting birds to be using the building.

Works to the building and any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be done outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August). If this is not possible, a nesting bird check will be required by a suitably qualified person up to 24 hours before the start of works. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

The report recommends the addition of a bird box on the northern elevation. A swift nest box can be used by other birds when swifts are not in residence.

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Ecologist