

Ecology response 13 7 26 for H/26/101307 8 FIR TREE CLOSE, HORTON HEATH, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7BZ

Demolition of an existing single-storey rear extension and conservatory and replacement of those with a new single-storey rear extension. Creation of a new enclosed porch to the front following the existing lean-to porch roof. Interior refurbishment and landscaping works to suit.

Charlie Vallis

13/7/26

I have reviewed the site photos.

Whilst there are a few gaps and crevices which could support roosting bats, the photos show either cobwebs or plant materials, so they are not likely to be used by bats. There is an area between the wooden lean-to and a square drainpipe with signs that ivy was growing and has been removed. This could have been used by nesting birds or bats. There is also a small gap due to a broken brick at the top of the brick wall which could also be used by bats.

To ensure that nesting birds and bats are not using this area, demolition of the existing rear extension and wooden lean to can only be done outside of nesting bird season and when bats are not likely to be roosting, ie: demolition must be restricted to November through February. If this is not possible, then it can be done only immediately after an endoscope inspection for bats and nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.

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 potential habitat for great crested newts or hedgehogs in the area impacted by the proposal; however, a precautionary working method must be used to prevent harm to wildlife that could be using the wider site. It should include:

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.

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

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

28/5/26

There are records of great crested newts, bats and hedgehogs nearby. Nesting birds are likely to be using the garden. This site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts.

The proposals would increase the area of hardstanding at the rear of the house.

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.

Photos of the garden are required for review. *When development falls into the red or amber zones on the impact risk map, developers MUST prove to their local planning authorities that their development plans pose 'no risk' to great crested newts.*

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>

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