

Ecology response for 7 9 26 H/26/101833 30 WESTFIELD COMMON, HAMBLE-LE-RICE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4LB

Hip to gable loft conversion with dormer windows to front and rear, including roof light and Juliet balcony to front. Erection of replacement detached garage.

Charlie Vallis

7/9/26

No objection.

I have reviewed the photos. There are a few holes in the pvc fascia of the house and the conservatory that would allow bats to enter these spaces however, these areas do not have the thermal stability that bats usually require. The roof tiles and hanging tiles on the dormer are in good condition with no potential bat roost features. The garage does not appear to have any potential bat roost features.

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

A precautionary working method will be required. It must contain the following information:

All site operatives must be briefed on how to recognise signs of bats.

Any fascia with holes or gaps must be removed carefully. If any bats or signs of bats are found, that part must be replaced, and all work must stop immediately. Natural England must be called for further advice. 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>.

Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August). If this is not possible then vegetation can be cleared only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist 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.

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.

Any excavations or open pipes will need to be covered at night, or provided with a small animal escape ramp (a rough board at a shallow angle) to allow animals to escape if they fall in.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/9/26

There are records of bats, slow worms and hedgehogs near this site, with nesting swifts in the wider area. It is also near the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI and the Netley to Hamble Shore SINC.

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 exterior and interior of the garage and the garden are also required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11. 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:

[Building a resilient garden for a changing climate / RHS Gardening](#)

<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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