

Ecology response 7 9 26 for L/26/101825 29 HIGH STREET, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EA

Proposed replacement sashes of 19no. sash windows & proposed replacement of 3no. casement windows.

Gina Aftanas

7/9/26

No objection.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment by Arbtech (August 2026). The building was assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats. House sparrows were observed using the eaves at each gable end of the building, with at least four nest sites identified. Precautionary working methods for nesting birds were recommended.

Any window replacement located below the active nests should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. Use of machinery and noise levels must be controlled during this time. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged or an ecologist has confirmed the nesting attempt has concluded.

Swift and sparrow nest boxes have been recommended at the eaves of the building as biodiversity enhancements. See ecology response of 4/8/26 for links to further information.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

11/8/26

I have reviewed the photos of the windows. I don't see any obvious bat roost features except for some gaps to the right side of window 18 which are large enough for crevice-dwelling bats. The area under this window is covered by a climbing vine which could obscure other gaps. There might also be gaps under window 4, as the area under the window is not clearly visible.

Windows 18 and 4 must be checked by a bat-licensed ecologist before any works can proceed. The other window replacements can go ahead with the following advisory:

Please could you add the following informative 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>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/8/26

There are records of bats near this site. Bats could roost in gaps around windows, so photos of each window and the areas around it are required for review. The photos must be numbered to match the numbers on the annotated ground floor and first floor plans to identify the locations in case further investigation is needed.

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:

[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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist