

Ecology response for F/26/102072 232 LEIGH ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3AW

Change of use of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to an 11-person house in multiple occupation (sui generis), with provision of secure cycle storage

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The planning statement says that No further extension or external building works are required to facilitate the proposed HMO use.

The ecology response for the previous application H/26/100845 was informed by the Preliminary Roost Assessment by Vesper Conservation and Ecology (March 2026). The ecological enhancement required by that application was a bat box built into the southern elevation and there were recommendations on restricting external lighting.

This application will require at least one further ecological enhancement in accord with DM 11. Boxes for nesting birds such as swifts or sparrows are recommended under the eaves as there are no suitable mature trees in the garden. Photos of the ecological enhancements can be conditioned before first occupation. The garden would also benefit from flowering plants and shrubs to attract pollinators.

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>)

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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