

Ecology response for F/24/96706 61 TORRIDGE GARDENS, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO18 3NF

This application relates to the proposed new build construction of 1No. semi-detached house and all associated works.

Summer Sharpe

25/1/24

There are records of bats, stag beetles, badgers and nesting swifts close to this site. It is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts.

I don't see any obvious potential bat roost features on the side of 61Torridge Gardens, however there is a very large tree to the rear which might be impacted by the proposal.

If this tree will be affected, then it should be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist for potential bat roost features. I am happy to review photos taken close up, in good light, showing details of the trunk and branches to determine whether there are any potential bat roost features visible at this point.

A precautionary working method statement to protect great crested newts, bats, stag beetles, and badgers will be required. This can either be conditioned or provided before determination.

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 called. 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>.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick 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>)

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/>

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Ecologist