

Ecology response for H/24/96692 15 CROWSPORT, HAMBLE-LE-RICE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HG

Erection of new First Floor provided with Roof Terrace and Parapet Walls, erection of a single storey side Extension with internal alterations throughout, and replacement of the rear Timber Terrace with Block Paved Terrace provided with Glass Handrails.

Clare Martin

30/1/24

There are records of bats, stag beetles, slow worms and swifts near this site.

Photos are required to determine whether there are any potential features for bats or nesting birds on this house and in the garden. This should include the fascia, soffits, any vines on the house, roof, areas where the pergola attaches to the house, any cladding if present, and any areas of the garden which would be affected by construction of this proposal.

The proposal increases the footprint of the terrace to the east of the house and would result in loss of a small amount of garden, however I don't see any suitable habitat for slow worms in the photos of this garden. The proposed plans show some of the existing stone area in the garden replaced with grass and most of the terrace has been moved away from the hedge on the northeastern boundary.

Any new fencing or garden walls should contain at least 2 holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) to allow free passage of small animals through the garden. Site operatives must be made aware of the possibility of stag beetles and their larvae being present on site, and how to recognise them. They may be present under or around the wooden decking. If found, they should be moved to a place of safety within planted areas of the garden.

Biodiversity enhancements are required.

Photo (02) in the DAS, looking north at a portion of the front elevation shows the planted front courtyard garden. This contains a wide diversity of flowering plants to attract pollinators. Additional planted areas should also contain a diverse planting mix, planned to provide a long flowering season.

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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