

Ecology response for H/24/96710 95 LAKEWOOD ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5AD

2 storey front and rear extensions with new roof over and 1st floor side and single storey rear extension

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1/2/24

I have reviewed the Phase 1 and 2 Bat survey report by Vesper Conservation and Ecology Limited (September 2023). The single storey extension is a confirmed day roost for brown long-eared bats, and will require a license from Natural England before the start of works. The license can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted.

The method statement and mitigation outlined in the report is appropriate. It provides details for the timing of works within sensitive areas, which must only be done from March-May or September-November, and in temperatures above 8 degrees C, to avoid bat maternity and hibernation seasons.

A suitably qualified ecologist must supervise removal of roof tiles, felt, cladding and soffits in sensitive areas, and removal must be done by hand and a toolbox talk must be provided to contractors.

An alternative roost will need to be supplied during construction works so that any bats found during the destructive search/tile strip can be relocated. The site of the alternative roost must be shown on a plan.

As mentioned in the report, standard breathable roofing membranes cannot be used, as bats can get caught in the fibres. Either bitumen coated roofing felt or a roofing membrane that has passed a snagging propensity test can be used, but this must be specified and approved in the bat license application. Further information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website under Advice, Things to consider when planning works, and Roofing Membranes.

The proposed built-in bat boxes are sufficient compensation for the loss of this roost feature (a small gap) as this is not a maternity roost.

A post-completion compliance check to ensure that all compensation, mitigation and enhancement features have been correctly installed will be required and can be conditioned.

Biodiversity enhancements are still required in line with local and national policy and a biodiversity enhancement plan can be conditioned.

The front and rear gardens appear to have been cleared of vegetation and shrubs before the Phase 1 survey in June 2023. Aerial photos available on Google Earth show flowering shrubs

and trees in the garden as of March 2022, however these are not visible in the photos in the Phase 1 and 2 Bat report.

A swift brick/nest box, other bird boxes and enhancing the garden with additional night-scented flowering plants (to attract moths as food for bats) may be appropriate for this building.

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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