

Ecology response amended for H/23/96405 27 PERN DRIVE, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2GW

Erection of 1.5 storey front extension following demolition of existing garage and erection of porch.

Alex Stone

5/2/24

I have reviewed the site photos. The garage has one area where the fascia has slipped and another area where ivy may have created and might be obscuring a potential opening. The photos show that the house soffits do not have any gaps, but I cannot see the entire roof of the house (all elevations, as previously requested) to determine whether there are any openings where bats could access the loft space. I am happy to review further photos of the roof on all elevations but if these are not available, and as this proposal would affect the loft space due to works to the roof, a preliminary bat roost assessment will be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

39/12/23

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats very near this site and slow worms in the vicinity. The photo of the front of the house on google maps shows that the garage could have some potential bat roost features and the proposed extension would impact the roof. I need to review close up photos of the garage and the house roof, any fascia, flashings and soffits on all elevations to determine whether a survey would be required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick or 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/>

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