

Ecology response amended for H/23/96597 149 LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9DW

Two storey side extension to include increase ridge height, single storey rear extension, front and rear porch, alterations to fenestration and elevations, hardstanding front driveway and new detached double garage to rear (Amended description)

Claire Campbell-Best

12/2/24

I have reviewed the site photos. There are no potential bat roost features visible on the house, however the vegetation at the rear of the garden might have some potential for nesting birds and hedgehogs. No vegetation would be affected by building the side and rear extensions.

No further surveys are required, but as a precaution 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>.

The vegetation at the end of the garden would need to be removed to build the new garage across the full width of the plot and no additional landscaping is shown on the plans. This will result in a net loss of biodiversity on site, which is contrary to local and national policies. A biodiversity enhancement plan is required which shows compensation/replacement planting for the vegetation which would be removed, as well as additional habitat as biodiversity enhancements. This can include bat and swift boxes built into the new extensions, as long as the appropriate elevations are available and can be kept dark for bats.

A precautionary working method for nesting birds and hedgehogs is also required.

If an active bird's nest is found, all work must stop, and a 5 m buffer erected to protect the nest from disturbance until after the young have fledged and left the nest.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

15/1/24

There are records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site and the proposal involves extensive work to the roof. There are records of nesting swifts in the wider vicinity. Close up photos taken in good light are required to determine whether a preliminary bat roost assessment is required. The photos must include all areas of the roof, chimneys, all

elevations, soffits, fascia, flashings, rear garden and any trees which would be impacted by construction.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick/box and a swift brick/box 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](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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