

Ecology response for H/23/96335 23 MARLS ROAD, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EY

Retrospective planning for loft conversion to include a hip-to-gable roof extension and rear dormer window and erection of new front porch

Claire Campbell-Best

19/2/24

I have reviewed the site visit photos and note the presence of hanging tiles above the front door, extending to the roof, and that the new front porch has not yet been erected. The hanging tiles appear to be in good condition, with no gaps visible in these photos.

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>.

Any exterior lighting, if required for security purposes must be directed away from the hanging tiles and any bat boxes added and shielded so that light spill is only downwards. Lighting guidance note (GN08/23) should be followed. This is available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](#).

There are records of bats in the area, however since the work to the roof has already been done it is not possible to determine whether any bat roosts have been affected.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required and can be conditioned.

A bat box and a swift nest box may be appropriate for this building if the correct elevations are available. The addition of flowering plants to attract pollinators is also recommended.

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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