

Ecology response for H/24/96806 7 HARDINGS LANE, FAIR OAK, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8GL

Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory and erection of 2.6m high timber fence along part of the southwestern boundary

Claire Campbell-Best

19/2/24

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are records of bats, hedgehogs, and stag beetles nearby.

A precautionary working method to protect hedgehogs, terrestrial great crested newts and stag beetles will be required. If any vegetation clearance is required it must either be done outside the nesting bird season (which is considered to be March through August), or only after a check for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Any excavations must be covered at night or fitted with a small animal escape ramp to prevent animals becoming trapped. New fencing must have at least two openings (13 x 13 cm minimum) to allow free passage of small animals such as hedgehogs through the garden.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat box and a swift nest 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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist