

Ecology response for H/24/96803 8 NICHOL ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5AS

Two storey front and rear extensions, alterations to roof to provide additional first floor accommodation, single storey side extension to incorporate an open car port and vehicular access from Nichol Road and erection of 1.8m boundary fence

Claire Campbell-Best

29/2/24

This site is within a green impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are numerous records of bats very close to this site. There are records of nesting swifts, common toads and slow worms in the wider vicinity.

There are also records of hedgehogs in the immediate area. Any closed board fencing must contain at least two openings (13 x 13 cm minimum) in the base boards to allow free passage of small mammals through the garden.

The proposal involves works to the roof. The photos provided in the DAS show hanging tiles on the existing dormers and an unclear area under a dormer window which could provide roosting places for bats.

A preliminary ecological appraisal is required. This will include a full appraisal of the impact of the proposals on the entire site including any trees which might support nesting birds and roosting bats, and recommendations for specific biodiversity enhancements appropriate to this site.

As enhancements a bat brick and 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](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