

Ecology response amended for H/23/96599 6 CRANBORNE GARDENS, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1TA

Single storey rear extension, loft conversion with front and rear dormers, front elevation window design changed

Alex Stone

6/3/24

I have reviewed the site photos. Although the photos of the house did not include many close up photos of the requested features, this house does not appear likely to have potential bat roost features. A survey will not be required. The tree officer's response confirms that there are no trees which would need to be removed to facilitate this proposal. The tree protection condition will also protect the garden areas around the trees from disturbance.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs and nesting birds will be required. The precautionary working method should include all building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp, and no fires can be lit on site. Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

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>.

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, gable ends, soffits, fascia, flashings, the rear gardens, 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>)

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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