

Ecology response for F/24/97033 BADNAM COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, BURSLEDON,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DJ

Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with a new dwelling.

2/4/24

This site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts.

There are records of great crested newts nearby, along with nesting swifts, bats and hedgehogs.

I have reviewed the Bat and Barn Owl Survey, Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement report by Aluco Ecology Ltd (February 2024). Three emergence surveys were conducted in June and July 2023 and one common pipistrelle was seen emerging from the rear dormer. Bats were also recorded foraging and commuting nearby.

A European Protected Species License will be required. This can only be applied for from Natural England after planning permission has been granted and must be in place before the start of works. The mitigation strategy is outlined in section 4 of the report. A pre-inspection survey will be required before the start of works to check that levels of bat activity and roosting locations have not changed. Roof stripping works must be undertaken when bats are more tolerant of disturbance and outside of breeding and hibernation periods, with the average temperature above 7 degrees C, usually between March-April and September-October. Removal of the existing roof must be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist.

A bat box must be installed in the garden prior to the start of works. The replacement building will contain 2 built-in bat roost boxes. A post development survey will be required to ensure the new roosts are functional.

A sparrow terrace bird box will be installed within the garden. As an alternative, a swift nest box (which can be used by other species) is recommended due to local records of swifts. Native deciduous trees and shrubs, and pollinator friendly flowering plants (especially night flowering scented plants) are recommended as biodiversity enhancements.

The following information may be helpful:

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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