

Additional Ecology response 3 4 24 for H/24/96743 53 WHALESMEAD ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 8HJ

Proposed single and 2 storey rear extension and side window alterations

Alex Stone

3/4/24

I have reviewed the updated PEA by Hampshire Ecological Services. The report states that the bat roost suitability is low to negligible, (but not negligible) due to the presence of at least three potential bat roost features. These include torn roof lining, a gap under the hanging tiles on the west elevation of the dormer and lifted tiles at the edge of the roof on the front elevation.

Due to the presence of these potential bat roost features, the roof and hanging tiles must only be removed under ecological supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any bats are found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and a licence from Natural England will be required. A bat box must be erected on a retained tree in case any bats are found during the roof strip and an integrated bat box must be installed on the side elevation as (shown in figure 5) as mitigation for loss of these roost features. An integrated swift nest box and another bird box must be installed on the rear elevation as biodiversity enhancements (Figure 6). Additional enhancement recommendations are provided in Appendix C of the report. These are appropriate. Planting night flowering scented plants will attract moths as food for bats. Plants with a wide range of flowering times will attract pollinators.

A precautionary working method for great crested newts and stag beetles will be required and can be conditioned. This will include that all excavations or open pipes be covered at night or have a rough slanted board as a small animal escape ramp fitted at night. If any animals are found on site, they must not be handled but be allowed to move away on their own. No fires can be lit on site. Building materials must be stored on hard standing or if this is not possible, then raised on pallets.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

6/3/24

Four additional photos have been supplied but the gable ends and soffits are still not visible as previously requested.

There is a gap in the tiles in one side of the rear dormer which could be a potential bat roost feature. A preliminary bat roost appraisal is required.

A precautionary working method for great crested newts and stag beetles will be required and can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

14/2/24

There are records of bats, and stag beetles in the area and the site is located in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts.

The photo of the front of the house available on google maps does not show any potential bat roost features, however the proposal will affect the roof and rear elevation and the windows. I need to review photos of the roof, rear and sides of the house, the areas around the windows, fascia, soffits, flashings and the garden to determine whether any surveys are required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. 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/>

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