

Ecology response for F/24/97118 17 O'CONNELL ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9GN

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of detached 2 bedroom dwelling

David Huckfield

9/4/24

This site is within an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, swifts and hedgehogs very close to the site.

Site photos are required to determine whether a survey will be required. The photo on Google maps of the outbuilding shows that it is covered in vegetation, so it may provide potential habitat for nesting birds and bats. Photos should be close-up and taken in good light. The roof, the interior of the outbuilding and any windows should be shown. The vegetation in the garden and growing over the outbuilding should also be shown.

Application submitted on 25/3/24 so still within the 10% BNG exemption period for small sites. Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building proposal.

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/>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist