

Ecology response for H/24/97067 71 RUSKIN ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 4JW

Replacement wooden single garage with brick double garage

Claire Campbell-Best

16/4/24

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, nesting swifts, stag beetles, and hedgehogs nearby. I have looked at the aerial photo of the site on Google maps and from what I can see the garage proposed to be removed does not appear to have any features suitable for roosting bats, but may provide some opportunities for nesting birds.

Please could you add the following informatives 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>

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs will be required. This 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 any active bird's nests are found, all work must stop and the nest must be protected from all disturbance with a 5 m buffer until after the young have fledged and left the nest.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. The building is not tall enough to provide the height needed by a bat box or a swift nest box so they would not be recommended for this proposal but could be installed on the main house if practical. Information on other enhancements can be found on the websites listed below.

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 on biodiversity enhancements 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/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist