

Ecology response 3 6 24 for H/24/96803 8 NICHOL ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5AS

Two storey front and rear extensions, alterations to roof to provide additional first floor accommodation, single storey side extension to incorporate an open car port and vehicular access from Nichol Road and erection of 1.8m boundary fence

Claire Campbell-Best

3/6/24

I have reviewed the Bat Survey report by Hampshire Ecological Services (rev 1, May 2024). A dusk emergence survey was conducted, and no bats were seen emerging.

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>

The proposed biodiversity enhancements of a built-in bat box, a swift box and a 32 mm hole bird box are appropriate. The exterior should conform to the bat sensitive lighting recommendations explained in Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. This is available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](https://www.theilp.org.uk/Guidance%20Note%208%20Bats%20and%20Artificial%20Lighting%20at%20Night).

Precautionary working methods for nesting birds have been outlined in the report, however vegetation is not proposed to be removed or cut back to accommodate this proposal.

These precautionary working methods for hedgehogs were not included in the report but must be followed. Any excavations or open pipes must be checked and covered at night or fitted with small animal escape ramps to allow any animals that may have fallen in to escape. Building materials must be stored on hard standing or pallets. No fires can be lit on site. If hedgehogs are found on site, they must be allowed to move to a place of safety on their own.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

29/2/24

This site is within a green impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are numerous records of bats very close to this site. There are records of nesting swifts, common toads and slow worms in the wider vicinity.

There are also records of hedgehogs in the immediate area. Any closed board fencing must contain at least two openings (13 x 13 cm minimum) in the base boards to allow free passage of small mammals through the garden.

The proposal involves works to the roof. The photos provided in the DAS show hanging tiles on the existing dormers and an unclear area under a dormer window which could provide roosting places for bats.

A preliminary ecological appraisal is required. This will include a full appraisal of the impact of the proposals on the entire site including any trees which might support nesting birds and roosting bats, and recommendations for specific biodiversity enhancements appropriate to this site.

As enhancements 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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