

Ecology response for H/24/97488 34 BISHOPSTOKE ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6LB

Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing fenestration

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The biodiversity checklist has been filled out incorrectly. Section 1.1 has been marked no when it should be yes. There are many other errors in section 2 Species where every question has been marked no.

The River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located to the south of the dwelling and appears to extend into the red line boundary of the site. The River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located 28 m from the eastern side of the house. The site is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts and there are records of great crested newts in this immediate area. There are also records of bats, otters and water voles very close to this site. A Preliminary Roost Assessment report (PRA) by LHB Ecology (May 2024) was submitted with respect to bats, however these other species and the proximity of the site to the River Itchen SAC and SSSI need to be considered during construction.

The PRA states that no potential roost features would be impacted by this proposal. The slate roof tiles were in the process of being replaced at the time of the survey and the building was assessed to have negligible bat roost suitability.

The proposed extension would extend across the entire width of the house and would extend further south than the existing ground floor extension. What is the exact distance between the SSSI boundary and the southernmost extent of the extension?

If this application is accepted, a precautionary working method for great crested newts, bats, otters and water voles will be required. This can be conditioned within a CEMP. The CEMP must also include protective measures to avoid pollutants being washed off site and into the SSSI and the SAC.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180.

The PRA recommended that a bat box should be erected on a mature tree on site as a biodiversity enhancement. The bat box should face south or southwest and be located at a height of 3 – 5 m above the ground, positioned away from sources of artificial lighting with a clear flight path to the entrance. A swift nest box or sparrow terrace can also be added to the house if a suitable elevation is available.

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/>

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

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