

Ecology response amended for H/24/97293 111 HURSLEY ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 1JD

Single storey rear/side extension, and first floor rear extension.

Claire Campbell-Best

5/6/24

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecological Services (February 2024) originally submitted for H/23/96567. The report states that it is valid for a maximum of 12 months. As the proposals are similar, my consultation response is the same:

The house and garage have been assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability, but the shed is assessed to have low-negligible suitability with a few potential access points for bats to enter the building and some exterior potential roosting features. The house and garage have no constraints to work being done, but the shed will need either a pre-works emergence check or demolition under ecological supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Given that bats move between roosts, and this is a small building I think that demolition under ecological supervision (which could be conditioned) would be the more pragmatic choice, however if the applicant prefers an emergence survey (between May and August) that is an acceptable option but would need to be done before determination. A temporary bat box must be installed on a retained tree to relocate any bats found during ecologically supervised demolition.

If any bats are found, work must stop and a licence from Natural England must be applied for.

The biodiversity enhancements and lighting guidance recommended in the report are appropriate and should be implemented.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

28/5/24

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts, with nearby records of bats and hedgehogs. There are nesting swifts in the wider area.

I need to review close up photos of any areas which would be impacted by the proposals to determine whether any surveys would be required. This includes the roof, soffits, fascia, flashings, areas around the windows, and garden.

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.

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/>

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

Lisa Malter

Ecologist