

Ecology response for F/24/97053 HATTS COPSE FARM, BROOK LANE, BOTLEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2ER

Construction of detached 2-bedroom bungalow and conversion of existing bungalow to storage/garage to be used for purposes incidental to the use of Hatts Copse Farm as a dwellinghouse.

David Huckfield

There are records of bats, badgers, and hedgehogs in this area so precautionary working methods will be required. The property is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts. Nesting birds, reptiles and common toads were mentioned in the ecological reports for previous applications on the wider property.

Aerial photos of this site available on Google Maps and Grid Reference Finder show a small red building next to the existing annexe. This building is shown on the maps and surrounded by what appears to be gravel or an unpaved road surface but is not described in the planning statement. I need to review current photos of this site including all the property within the domestic curtilage red line boundary and the areas adjacent to this site to determine whether any additional surveys are needed.

Gould Copse SINC is adjacent to this site. It is designated for ancient semi-natural woodland and other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving. A surface water drainage plan is required.

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 proposed elevations show suitable gable ends on both the north and south side elevations. Built-in or integral nest boxes/bricks are preferable to externally mounted boxes as they do not require maintenance and cannot fall off.

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/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes/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>

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