

Ecology response for F/24/97452 SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET, LEIGH ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9FH

Installation of [3.no](#) air source heat pumps and [1.no](#) air condenser with associated fencing on the roof of existing store following removal of existing plant.

Rachael Morris

12/6/24

There are records of bats and nesting birds, including swifts, close to this site. To determine whether any survey is needed, I need to review photos of the existing plant proposed to be removed.

Further information is required for the protective netting system proposed in the Refrigerated Plant Layout (option1) plan by Sainsbury's (February 2024, rev 04) to ensure that it will not provide an entrapment hazard for birds or bats.

The de minimus exemption from providing 10% Biodiversity Net Gain applies to this site, however there is a requirement to provide some biodiversity net gain in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180.

Bat boxes, swift nest boxes or a sparrow terrace can be installed elsewhere on the building to meet this requirement.

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> )

The following websites provide additional information:

<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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

