

Ecology response for F/24/97403 CAPITAL HOUSE, 100 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 5PB

Installation of plant on rooftop and service ductwork to rear elevation for mechanical ventilation & heat recovery system.

Clare Martin

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There are records of bats and nesting birds, including swifts, close to this site. I have reviewed photos of the building on Google maps and do not see any features which would be attractive to nesting birds or roosting bats. The proposed plant would not be near the existing plant room, lift room, staircase or parapets so would not be expected to impact these areas.

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>

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