

Ecology response amended for H/24/96919 11 OAKMOUNT AVENUE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3AB

Two storey side and rear extension with raised decking in rear garden (Resubmission application)

Claire Campbell-Best

27/6/24

I have reviewed the Bat Roost Assessment report by Phillips Ecology (June 2024). No bats were present on the two bat activity surveys in May and June 2024.

Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>

The following precautions, mitigation and enhancements can be agreed before determination or conditioned:

The wildlife-sensitive lighting scheme, precautionary working methods to protect breeding birds, and biodiversity enhancements that are recommended in the report are appropriate and should be implemented.

Nesting birds: Vegetation affected by the proposal must be cleared outside of nesting bird season (which is usually March-August inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist must check for nesting birds no more than 24 hours before vegetation clearance. If evidence of an active bird's nest is found during construction, work must stop and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the chicks have fledged and left the nest.

The precautionary working method for slow worms, hedgehogs and stag beetles in the previous response will also be required. This must include covering excavations and open pipes at night or installing a small animal escape ramp. Any piles of materials must be left on hard standing such as on pallets. Any small animals found on site must not be handled but be allowed to move to a place of safety on their own.

Two bat boxes, either built into the new extensions or added to the existing house and two open fronted bird nesting boxes were recommended as enhancements. The location of these boxes must be shown on a plan to ensure that they are on the correct elevations.

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

11/3/24

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. In addition to bats, there are records of stag beetles and hedgehogs. Slow worms have been recorded along the railway embankment to the east of this site. Although I don't see any obvious suitable habitat on the aerial photos available on Google maps, a precautionary working method will be required to protect these species during the construction phase. This must include covering excavations and open pipes at night or installing a small animal escape ramp. Any piles of materials must be left on hard standing such as on pallets. Any small animals found on site must not be handled but be allowed to move to a place of safety on their own.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA) by Phillips Ecology (February 2024). The house has been assessed to have moderate bat roost suitability and will require at least two presence/absence surveys to be carried out during the survey season (May to August inclusive). If any bats are seen emerging or re-entering, a third survey (before the end of September) may be required to inform a Natural England mitigation license application.

As the presence of protected species is a material consideration, these surveys must be completed before the application can be determined. The bat survey report will provide details and location of any mitigation and enhancements.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground (rather than the 3 m recommended in the report), away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing south, southeast 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)).

Lisa Malter

Ecologist