

Ecology response 5 8 24 for H/24/97127 14 CUCKOO BUSHES LANE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1JX

The proposal is for the erection of a front porch, a single storey rear extension and the extension / alteration of an existing side dormer.

Alex Stone

5/8/24

I have reviewed the Bat Activity Survey Report by Daniel Ahern Ecology (July 2024). The building was assessed to have low bat roost potential and one bat activity survey was done according to best practice guidelines.

No bats were observed emerging from the building.

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 biodiversity enhancements recommended in the report are appropriate and shall be implemented. This includes one bat box mounted on a tree, one bat brick under the eaves of the new extension, a swift brick under the eaves in the new extension, a hedgehog house and an insect block. Appropriate location recommendations are provided in the response of 30/4/24 (below) and differ slightly from the recommendations in the report.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

23/5/24

I have reviewed the interior and exterior photos which do show some potential bat roost features. There are some cracked and lifted roof and ridge tiles, missing mortar, and potential gaps in the hanging tiles at the base of one of the dormers. There may also be a gap where the very small gable meets the roof flashing, but this would be difficult to determine without binoculars.

A preliminary bat roost assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist is required, and further activity surveys may be needed.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

30/4/24

There are records of bats, hedgehogs and stag beetles very close to this site. The site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts.

The proposed single storey rear extension would require demolition of an existing single storey extension (utility room with boiler and WC). A rooflight is shown in the proposed extension.

The relocated utility room as proposed would involve creating another doorway at the side of the house. This would be located between the two existing windows, in the current dining room and kitchen. The proposed roof plan shows the addition of 2 further Velux windows and solar panels. I can see from the aerial photo on Google maps that the proposed extension would not affect any trees, however there may be some shrubs which would be impacted.

Due to the impact on the roof and demolition of the existing single storey extension, a preliminary bat roost assessment (PRA) is required. Precautionary working methods to protect hedgehogs and stag beetles will also be 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 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>)

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