

Ecology response 4 9 24 for H/24/97393 30 TELEGRAPH ROAD, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3EX

2 storey and single storey side/rear extension, front porch, and replacement garage with home Gym

Rebecca Altman

4/9/24

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Hampshire Ecology Services (August 2024). The house and the garage have been assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability and no further surveys are required. As a precautionary measure, on the garage the (dead) climbing plant and soffit should be carefully removed by hand and the cracks in the brickwork checked carefully immediately prior to the start of demolition.

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 lighting and biodiversity enhancement recommendations (built-in bat, swift and sparrow boxes and bird boxes on site, additional planting for pollinators) in the report are appropriate and should be implemented as shown in figs 4 and 5.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

18/6/24

I have reviewed the site photos (29 5 24). I can see several areas with potential bat roost features on the garage and the house. There is also a dry stone wall at the end of the rear patio with gaps that could shelter wildlife such as reptiles or amphibians. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal is required to determine whether bats or great crested newts might be using this site.

The guidance for great crested newt impact risk zones states:

- **Red** (highly suitable habitat) or **Amber** (suitable habitat, likely to be present) – *When development falls into the red or amber zones on the impact risk map, developers MUST prove to their local planning authorities that their development plans pose 'no risk' to great crested newts, this can be done in one of three ways:*

1. Demonstrate that newts don't occur on your site (usually by commissioning an ecological consultant to carry out a site assessment).

2. Apply to Natural England for a Standard Licence – this can only be done after planning permission. You will need to commission an ecologist to carry out a survey and design a great crested newt mitigation scheme.
3. Join the NatureSpace District Licence Scheme, which usually provides the quickest, most certain and least risky option where a licence is required.

Lisa Malter
Ecologist

4/6/24

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, slow worms and stag beetles very close to this site.

To determine whether further surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of all areas of the roof, fascia, soffits (standing next to building and looking upwards), flashings, hanging tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings. Photos of the exterior and interior of the garage and any areas of the garden which would be affected by the proposal are also 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