

Ecology response amended for H/24/97624 5 MERDON CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 1EF

Proposed first-floor side extension, minor internal remodelling & external cladding
alterations

Claire Campbell-Best

26/9/24

I have reviewed the Bat Survey Report by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd. (September 2024). The building was assessed to have moderate bat roost suitability and two bat activity surveys were conducted. No bats were seen emerging. 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 informed. 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 proposed in the report are appropriate and shall be implemented. The recommendations were for at least one integrated bat box and two multi-use boxes for swifts and sparrows to be installed in the appropriate locations shown in Section 6, Figures 6 and 7. Built-in boxes are preferred as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

If any exterior lighting is required, it must conform to the guidelines explained in sections 5.2.2 and 5.6.2 and must not be installed near or shining on the bat box.

Flowering plants that attract wildlife should be considered as additional enhancements and plants from the list in section 12.2 are selected to attract pollinators and night flying insects as food for bats and birds.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

3/7/24

The site is adjacent to Hiltingbury Lakes SINC. It is in a red impact risk zone for great crested newts, and there are records of bats, hedgehogs and nesting swifts nearby.

The photo of the house available on Google maps is an old photo (front elevation only, image capture from 2012) but shows hanging tiles on the upper elevations which would be affected by the alterations to external cladding and fenestration. The extension would attach to the existing roof. Bats frequently roost under hanging tiles, so they must be checked very carefully.

A preliminary bat roost appraisal is required. A precautionary working method to avoid any potential impacts during construction to great crested newts and hedgehogs 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>

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