

Ecology response amended 10/10/24 for H/24/98045 1 REGENT ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 2GT

Single storey rear and side extension following the demolition of the existing conservatory and garage. Alterations to the fenestrations with new boundary treatment.

Alex Stone

10/10/24

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment Report by Vesper Conservation and Ecology Ltd (October 2024). The building has been assessed as having negligible bat roost potential, no further surveys are required. The ecological consultant did not recommend any specific biodiversity enhancements and stated that the house is not suitable for a bat box. The aerial photo available on Google maps shows some trees at the end of the garden. Bird boxes may be able to be mounted on those trees and additional flowering plants or shrubs for pollinators can be added to the property. This can be conditioned.

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>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

19/9/24

I have reviewed the site photos. The area around the house is either gravel or amenity lawn with some shrubs. I don't see any potential habitat for great crested newts. The roof of the house is not completely visible in these photos and there are some spots showing on the insulation inside the loft that should be checked by a bat licensed ecologist.

Due to the extensive work needed to the roof, a preliminary bat roost assessment is required. This will include a full inspection of the loft.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs will be required. This must include:

- All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.
- Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp
- No fires can be lit on site.
- Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife.
- Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.

There is a bird box mounted on the rear wall below a light fixture and above a hose reel and a heat pump. (This is not an appropriate location for a bird box due to high levels of disturbance). There is another bird box on the wall of the garage. Both of these boxes will need to be relocated to undisturbed areas before the start of works.

The bird boxes and any vegetation suitable for nesting birds must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August) or if this is not possible then only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

18/9/24

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, stag beetles, hedgehogs and nesting swifts nearby. To determine whether any surveys are required, I need to review close up photos of all areas of the roof, soffits, fascia and flashings of the house and the garage, and the rear garden.

Any permanent fencing that is erected at the property boundaries must have periodic holes or gaps (measuring 13cm by 13 cm minimum) in the baseboards to allow the free movement of hedgehogs between gardens, promoting habitat connectivity and extended foraging ranges.

Biodiversity enhancements are required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat box/brick and a bird box 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>)

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<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.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://stagbeetles.ptes.org/how-to-build-a-log-pile/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist