

Ecology response 18 10 24 for H/24/98093 5 PARKWOOD CLOSE, HEDGE END,  
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2FJ

Erection of single storey rear extension with an overhanging roof following removal of existing conservatory.

Claire Campbell-Best

18/10/24

I have reviewed the site visit photos taken 15/10/24. The hanging tiles on the rear elevation have many suitable gaps for bats both above the existing conservatory and to the side of the conservatory. These would be affected by any work on this elevation. Scaffolding has already been erected across the rear elevation and continuing onto the roof of the adjacent house (number 4). A preliminary bat roost assessment is required before **any** further work is done on the rear elevation to avoid potential impacts on bats. The ecologist completing this assessment should also recommend the most appropriate biodiversity enhancements for this site.

There is a small Japanese maple which would be affected by the proposal. If it is to be removed, this must be done outside of bird nesting season which is usually between the end of February through August, to avoid the possibility of disturbing nesting birds. If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist must check for nesting birds no more than 48 hours before vegetation clearance.

If evidence of an active bird's nest is found before or during the works, 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.

A small tree should be planted as a replacement in another part of the garden. This should be a tree which produces flowers for pollinators and fruit and seeds for birds or other wildlife. Suitable species can be found on the RHS website listed in the previous response.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs, reptiles and amphibians will be required, to include the following information:

Any excavations or open pipes will need to be covered at night or provided with an escape ramp (rough board at a shallow angle) to allow animals such as hedgehogs to escape if they fall in.

All chemicals and hazardous materials must be stored safely in lockable cabinets to prevent them from being accessed by hedgehogs. Waste must be kept in locked containers or removed from site daily.

Any long grass, piles of vegetation, dead wood, fallen leaves, or building materials which could shelter small mammals must be dismantled/cleared by hand to ensure that no animals become trapped.

If hedgehogs are found on site, they must be allowed to move away to safety. If any hedgehogs appear to be in distress, a hedgehog rescue worker should be contacted.

Information is available on the website of the British Hedgehog Preservation society at <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/found-a-hedgehog/>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

16/9/24

This site is in a green impact zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, stag beetles and hedgehogs nearby and nesting swifts, common reptiles and amphibians in the wider area.

I can see from the photo on Google maps that there are hanging tiles on the front of the house. To determine whether further surveys are required I need to review photos of the rear elevation and roof and the garden.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat box and a swift nest 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](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](http://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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