

Ecology response for H/24/98372 35 GORDON ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 5AQ

Two storey rear extension.

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

30/10/24

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There is a record of slow worms very close to this property. There are also records of bats, stag beetles, and hedgehogs nearby. There are nesting swifts in the wider area.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) by Vesper Conservation and Ecology (September 2024). Common pipistrelle bat droppings (confirmed by DNA testing) have been found in the roof void, so this site is a confirmed bat roost (high potential). Three bat activity surveys are required which can only be done during the active bat survey season (May through September). There were also signs of birds in the roof void.

Depending on the results of the surveys, a mitigation license may be needed from Natural England before work can start. Pictures 1 and 2 show that some building work has already started at the front and rear of the house.

The applicant has been informed of the laws that protect bats, breeding birds and reptiles in the appendices of this report.

As the presence of bats has been documented by the PRA, the application can be determined, but the following conditions will apply.

All work on site must stop immediately until precautionary working methods to protect stag beetles, hedgehogs, slow worms and nesting birds have been submitted and agreed in writing by Eastleigh Borough Council.

No work can be done which would affect the roof, the loft or on any of the potential bat roost features shown in the PRA report until the 3 required bat surveys have been done, and the information submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council in a Phase II bat survey report and the ecological consultant has confirmed whether a license application will or will not be needed.

No work can be done which would affect the roof, the loft or on any of the potential bat roost features shown in the PRA report until appropriate mitigation for the loss of potential bat roost features has been submitted and agreed in writing by Eastleigh Borough Council.

Biodiversity enhancements are required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate as enhancements in addition to any mitigation for loss of potential roost features. The ecological consultant should recommend appropriate biodiversity enhancements in the Phase II bat survey report.

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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