

Ecology response 10 31 24 for H/24/96962 28 CASTLE LANE, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 4AG

Single storey and two-storey rear extensions. First-floor side extension. Single storey and two-storey front extensions. Loft conversion with rear dormer to create second floor accommodation.

First-floor side extension. Single-storey rear extension (AMENDED DESCRIPTION)

Dorothy Hei-Tung-Hoh

31/10/24

I have reviewed the PRA, Nesting Birds and Bat Activity Survey Report by ABR Ecology (October 2024). Bat droppings were found in the loft space and confirmed to be from brown long-eared bats by DNA analysis. Three activity surveys were conducted in accord with guidelines and no bats were seen emerging. The building has been classified as a day roost for a low number of brown long-eared bats.

A Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) from Natural England is required and can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted. The license application must be informed by update surveys done within the same season as the license application.

The mitigation and biodiversity enhancement recommendations in the report are appropriate and must be followed as set out in Table 7 in section 4 of the report.

Any external lighting must conform to the guidance given in table 7 section 4 of the report.

Photographic evidence of the replacement bat roost features and bat access points must also be submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council.

The ecologist's report did not include any features of the area surrounding the house that might be impacted by the proposal during the construction phase. The site photos show piles of logs and tree stumps in both the front and rear garden that could provide potential habitat for hedgehogs, stag beetles and great crested newts. A review of aerial photos on Google Earth show that large trees were likely removed between March 2023 and March 2024.

Hedgehog holes (13 x 13 cm minimum) must be included in the baseboards of any closed board fences to allow the free passage of small mammals through the garden.

A precautionary working method is required during construction to avoid harming any animals living in or commuting through the garden.

It should contain 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 or badgers. Waste must be kept in locked containers or removed from site daily.

No fires can be lit on site.

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/>.

Stag beetles are nationally scarce priority species. They live in dead or decaying wood and adults are often attracted to warm pavements and tarmac so are vulnerable to being crushed. The larvae live in decaying wood and are often injured or killed when stumps are removed. If an adult stag beetle is found it should be left alone to move to a place of safety unless it is in danger. If a stag beetle larva is found and cannot be re-buried where it was found, it should be re-buried in a safe shady place in the garden with as much of the original rotting wood as possible.

Further information is available at: <https://ptes.org/campaigns/stag-beetles-2/stag-beetle-facts/>.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

20/3/24

This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats and hedgehogs very close to this site with stag beetles and nesting swifts in the near vicinity.

Given the close proximity of records of protected species and the complexity of these proposals, a preliminary ecological appraisal is required. This must include an internal inspection of the loft and an appraisal of the garden area around the house.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required. A bat brick and a swift brick may be appropriate for this building. The consultant ecologist's report must also include the most appropriate enhancements 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>)

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/>

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