

Ecology response for H/24/98407 24 KINGSWAY, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1EN

To modify the existing garage to provide accessible undercover secure vehicle parking. Garage driveway to be resurfaced in concrete as existing. To reinstate driveway field 5 bar gates to match neighbouring properties. (Retrospective Application)

Claire Campbell-Best

6/11/24

I have reviewed the photos of the existing and proposed works to the garage. Horizontal timber boarding which may have had potential as a bat roost feature was removed from the front gable end. The roof was raised to enable the enlarged front opening. The posts for the field 5 bar gate were installed within the root protection zones of the trees at the entrance of the driveway.

There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this site.

As this is a retrospective application, mitigation for loss of potential bat roost features and biodiversity enhancements are the only remaining options.

A bat box should be installed on the garage as mitigation for loss of potential bat roost features. 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))

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. Planting a wide variety of plants for pollinators including night scented flowering plants would be a good enhancement in this area. Bird boxes or a hedgehog house in a quiet corner of the garden would also be appropriate.

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

<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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist