

Ecology response for F/24/98318 143 PASSFIELD AVENUE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NH

Construction of a single storey building at rear (Use Class E(c)(iii) - commercial, business and services) containing 4no. additional treatment rooms with associated car parking.

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The previously approved application F/22/93663 is in the process of being built, therefore the habitat baseline condition for this application will be the approved vegetated area for that permitted application.

The area of vegetation for proposed for this application is 8 m² larger than what was previously approved and is now located to the east of the proposed enlarged outbuilding. The proposed site plan also shows a strip of vegetation along the tarmac parking area to the north of the two residential parking spaces.

This application can be considered exempt from the requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain because less than 25m² of habitat would be impacted.

Some biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. The vegetated areas should be planted with flowering plants that will attract pollinators and be managed to benefit to wildlife. The narrow strip along the tarmac parking area would be suitable for a flowering row of plants such as lavender or privet. The area to the east of the outbuilding would be suitable for a species rich grassland mix. This should be determined by the amount of sun available and the soil type. A seed mix similar to Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow mixture may be suitable if this area will be shaded by the outbuilding to the west and the hedgerow of the adjacent property to the east.

This proposed building is too short for a bat box or a swift nest box, but they can be added to the two-storey building on site.

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/>

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

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