

Ecology response 18 11 24 for H/24/98408 3 GROSVENOR GARDENS, WEST END,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3BP

Raising of roof ridge height, single storey rear extension, addition of front porch and alterations to the fenestration.

Alex Stone

18/11/24

I have reviewed the site photos which show that the house has already been gutted and potential bat roost features or any evidence of bats may have already been destroyed.

The rear garden has already been stripped to bare earth with all vegetation removed so any potential habitat for hedgehogs, badgers, great crested newts, and reptiles has also been removed. There are excavations which need to be either covered at night or fitted with a slanted board to allow any small animals to escape if they fall in.

An ecological surveyor would not find anything at this point. The statement in the email that the fascia/soffits and roof will be off in the next week makes this a retrospective application in terms of demolition and protected species.

Biodiversity enhancements must be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

4/11/24

There are records of bats, hedgehogs and badgers very close to the site. This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts, and there are records of common and rare reptiles in the area.

The photo of the house available on Google Maps shows that there may be some potential bat roost features. To determine whether a survey is required I need to review close up photos of the roof, gable ends, soffits, fascia, the areas around the windows, flashings, the area around the chimney and the rear garden.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat brick and a swift brick 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>)

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>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist