

Ecology response 13 12 24 for H/24/98416 MAGOR, 14C MAPLETON ROAD, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0GL

Single storey front and right-side extensions following the demolition of the existing conservatory, garage and lean to. New roof with sunlight.

Alex Stone

13/12/24

I have reviewed the site photos. I don't see any particular bat roost or nesting bird features but there is some ivy growth at the rear of the garage which could obscure a gap and the entire building is not visible from the photos.

The garage and any other outbuildings to be removed (but not the conservatory) must be dismantled outside of the active bat season (May through August) and the ivy must be removed outside of nesting bird season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August) so that these do not become attractive features for bats or roosting birds.

Please could you add the following informatives to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August) or if this is not possible then only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of works. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

7/11/24

Both the proposed side and rear extensions join into the main roof. This site is in a green impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, stag beetles and hedgehogs nearby with common toads and common reptiles recorded in the wider area.

The images of the house on Google Maps show that the area in front of the house is composed of gravel and asphalt, with the driveway extending towards the garage in the rear. The rear garden appears to be closely mown lawn with some planted areas. I don't see any habitat for stag beetles or hedgehogs in the area that would be affected by construction. The roof appears to be in good condition. I don't see any potential bat roost features at the front

or the side. I cannot see the garage or the lean-to, so please could you send photos of these areas to determine whether a bat survey would be required.

Precautionary working methods for hedgehogs will be required. Any excavations or open pipes will need to be covered at night or provided with a small mammal escape ramp to allow animals such as hedgehogs to escape if they fall in. If hedgehogs are found on site, they must be allowed to move away to safety. No fires can be lit on site.

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/>

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF paragraph 180. A bat brick, a bird box or a hedgehog house (if there are access points into the garden) may be appropriate for this building. Swift nest boxes can be used by other birds when swifts are not in residence.

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

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

<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