

Ecology response for H/24/98612 4 HOWARD CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3AD

Single storey rear extension. Loft conversion with rear dormer. Front porch.

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There are records of bats and hedgehogs near this site. The proposal involves works to the roof at the front and rear of the property. The roof appears to be in good condition, however there is a gap under the flashing around the chimney at the front of the house, but it is not in the area of impact of this proposal.

Please could you add the following informative 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>.

A precautionary working method for hedgehogs will be required. This must include:

- All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.
- Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp (a slanted rough board) at a shallow angle.
- No fires can be lit on site.
- Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife.
- Any chemicals must be stored securely in appropriate storage containers so that they are not accessible to wildlife
- Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own.
- 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. 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.
- Re-fuelling of equipment may only be done on absorbent pads, on hardstanding to avoid any fuel spills.
- External lighting should not be used during the construction phase, or if needed to enable works, it must be shielded so that no light enters or shines on vegetation where it could disturb wildlife.

Biodiversity enhancements are required. A bat box/brick and a swift nest box/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](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.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://stagbeetles.ptes.org/how-to-build-a-log-pile/>

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

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