

Ecology response 27 2 25 for H/25/98866 1 ASHLEY GARDENS, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 2JH

Single storey rear extension

Gina Aftanas

27/2/25

I have reviewed the site visit photos. There are hanging tiles on the rear elevation, but they appear to be in good condition with no visible gaps or slipped tiles which would provide roosting features for bats. The soffits and fascia also appear to be intact.

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>.

Biodiversity enhancements can be confirmed before determination or can be conditioned. The extension is proposed for the eastern (rear) elevation so a swift nest box on the northern (side) elevation might be the most appropriate enhancement.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

18/2/25

There are records of bats, hedgehogs and nesting swifts in this area.

The photo of the house available on Google maps (image capture August 2024) shows that there are hanging tiles on the rear elevation. They appeared to be in good condition at that time. The fascia board and soffits above the rear upper windows may have some gaps but the resolution of that photo is not high enough to determine this. Although the soffit and fascia will not be directly affected by construction of the proposed single storey extension, if bats are using this as a roost feature, light spill from the proposed roof window could shine more light on this area. There is already a streetlamp outside the house, so this may not be a problem, it may already be too light for bats. Photos of the rear elevation are required to determine if there are gaps in the rear fascia and soffits.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. A swift nest box may be appropriate for the gable end of this building. Gaps for hedgehogs could also be made under the concrete bases of the existing closed board fence.

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://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<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

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