

Ecology response for H/25/100061 ST GEORGES, KEW LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8DG

Front and rear extension, new pitched roof, front and rear dormers, rear balcony, new open porch, front decking and level/step changes

Gregg Chapman

24/9/25

I have reviewed the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA, March 2025) and the PRA & Bat Activity Surveys report (August 2025) by Vesper Conservation and Ecology. The building has been confirmed as a non-maternity day roost for a small number of soprano pipistrelle bats. A European Protected Species Mitigation license will be required. This can only be applied for after planning permission has been granted and the proposed works can only proceed as authorised and specified by the license.

The mitigation proposed in section 5 of the report is satisfactory. As a replacement for the loss of these roosts two inbuilt bat tubes are proposed to be added into the new gable walls one on the east and one on the western elevations.

A post-completion license compliance check by the ecological consultant specified on the license is required and must be conditioned. This must ensure that all mitigation features have been installed correctly before the contractors leave the site, according to current guidance from Natural England.

In addition to mitigation for loss of these bat roosts, biodiversity enhancements are required by local plan policy DM11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. Enhancements can be agreed before determination or can be conditioned.

A suitable enhancement would be the addition of more plants for pollinators, especially night-scented flowering plants to attract insects as food for bats. The following webpages may be helpful.

<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>
www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

Alternatively, additional provision for nesting birds including swifts could be provided.

<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/>

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

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

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