

Ecology response 1 10 25 for H/25/100005 4 HOCOMBE PARK CLOSE, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 5PT
Single/ two storey rear extensions

Alex Stone

1/10/25

The biodiversity statement with photos states that the *Rear elevation consists of brickwork and tiered lawn area for proposed lower and ground floor extensions which are 18-18.8m away from SINC boundary.*

This information still does not address the removal of trees as mentioned in the Tree Constraints Plan and Arboricultural Impact Assessment report. It is still not clear how the proposal would not impact the SINC woodland boundary. We normally require a 20 m buffer to the SINC woodland boundary.

Please provide photos of the rear of the garden where it adjoins the SINC woodland and information about how any impacts on the woodland edge such as lighting, noise and disturbance are proposed to be mitigated.

The locations of the proposed bat box and swift nest box as shown on the annotated plan are appropriate and can be implemented.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

15/9/25

I raise a holding objection to this application due to the potential impact on protected species and the woodland SINC adjacent to the property.

This site backs up onto Hocombe Mead SINC. There are records of bats, slow worms, common toads, Eurasian water shrews and hedgehogs. There are also records of Purple Emperor butterflies whose caterpillars feed on goat willow (also grey willow). The SINC is designated 1B/1Cii/3Bi/5B/6A for its surviving ancient semi-natural woodland characteristics, wet woodland, fens flushes and springs, and heathland.

The existing building is 23 m from the SINC boundary. The block plan shows the proposed rear extension would extend the building at least 5 m closer to the SINC boundary and has proposed large windows on two levels which would allow more light to spill onto the SINC woodland boundary. The Tree Constraints Plan and Arboricultural Impact Assessment report by RMT Tree Consultancy Ltd (July 2025) shows that some of the trees would be affected by this proposal. At least two trees would need to be removed and at least one tree would need to be crown lifted.

There may be implications for the protected species listed above that may be using these habitats.

To determine whether the impact can be minimised, I need to review site photos showing all areas of the house, trees and garden that would be impacted by these proposals.

To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of all areas of the roof, fascia, soffits (standing next to building and looking upwards), flashings, hanging tiles, the elevations to be affected by the proposal and any potential gaps or openings.

The Bats and Buildings brochure from the Bat Conservation Trust (<https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Bats-and-Buildings.pdf?v=1634310101>) has a very good diagram to show places bats may use in buildings on page 3 of the brochure.

An exact measurement of the distance from the proposed extension to the SINC boundary is required.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b. A bat box and a swift nest box 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 > 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.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>

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