

Dear Miss S Donophy,

APP/20/00642 - 65 Topaz Grove, Waterloooville, PO7 8ST - Two storey side extension.

Thank you for consulting me.

Bats receive protection under UK law via the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and under EU law by the Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations). Developments that affect building roofs can affect bats. Circular 06/2005 identifies that the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat, and therefore that it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted.

The Circular however also identifies that applicants should not be required to provide information on protected species unless there is a reasonable likelihood that they will be present and affected by the proposed development.

The application site is of relatively modern construction, which suggests that the roof is in good condition. Works to the gable end does not impact any of the existing roof tiles or flashing around the chimney, located at the opposite extent.

The site lies adjacent to Outhurst/Inhurst/Beech Woods SINC, thus it is possible that any proposed lighting could impact foraging, commuting and roosting bats, as any new lighting proposed may cause the species to abandon their nest/roost. Thus, no lighting should be installed near to or directed onto any vegetation. This is because lighting can impact bat populations directly by disturbing roosts and reducing their foraging area, or indirectly by severing commuting routes from roosts.

Providing no additional lighting is proposed, I would consider there to be no reasonable likelihood that bats would be present and affected and I would raise no specific concerns over this proposal.

I would nevertheless suggest an advisory note is added to the planning permission as follows:

- Bats and their roosts receive strict legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). All work must stop immediately if bats, or evidence of bat presence (e.g. droppings, bat carcasses or insect remains), are encountered at any point during this development. Should this occur, further advice should be sought from Natural England and/or a professional ecologist.

Please do contact me if you need any further information.

Kind Regards

Rebecca Harvey

**Ecologist
Ecology Team**

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