



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

Redhorn Close, Poole, Dorset BH16 5BE

Prepared for: Fred Allot, Housing Delivery, BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue,
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Summary

No protected species, evidence of protected species, protected or notable plants or habitats were found on the site, except the mature trees, which offer suitable habitats for nesting birds.

Mitigation and enhancements are proposed for the site development to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain aligns with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 and Poole Local Plan 2018.

1.0. Introduction

1.1. Survey - The ecology survey aimed to confirm the presence/absence of any protected/notable plant or animal species, suitable habitats for protected species, such as bats, barn owls and other nesting birds on the site, badgers, reptiles, and amphibians.

Local Planning Authorities must consider nature conservation issues, including species and habitats protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 when making planning decisions. Local Planning Authorities also aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity (National Policy Planning Framework 2021 (NPPF) and Poole Local Plan, 2018 (PP24 & PP33)) and to have regard to conserving biodiversity, which includes restoring and enhancing a population or habitat under the Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006)). Poole Local Plan 2018 states that ‘development will not result in any adverse impacts and secure a net gain for biodiversity.’

1.2. Report - The report aims to set out the survey results, highlighting any effects of the proposed development on any protected species or habitats suitable for protected species on or adjacent to the site and provide mitigation and/or enhancement as appropriate.

1.3. Site Location - Redhorn Close, Poole, Dorset BH16 5BE (Figs. 1 & 2), grid reference SY 98211 91588 and SY 98237 91605. Site = 0.19ha.

Figure 1. Aerial View



Figure 2. Site Location Plan



1.4. Description of Site - The site is located within Turlin Moor and consists of two areas of amenity grassland (green space) on either side of Redhorn Close with seven trees and boundary shrubs. Residential dwellings surround the site.

1.5. Description of Proposals - The proposal aims to provide eight dwellings on the site by creating four blocks of two-storey buildings. Residents parking off Redhorn Close and private provision for cycle storage and refuse and recycling stores are proposed.

2.0. Method

2.1. Desk Study - The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was used to search for data on protected habitats.

2.2. Field Survey - The ecology survey was carried out, assessing the site for species and/or habitats protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, and The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Surveys were carried out following all relevant guidelines (see Reference section). The weather was fine, still, and clear.

2.2.1. Bats & Buildings - There are no buildings on site.

2.2.2. Bats & Trees - The trees on site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats based on suitable bat roosting features, such as cracks, splits, woodpecker holes, deadwood, scratch marks and ivy. An assessment was also made of the suitability of the site and the surrounding landscape to support foraging and/or commuting bat species. The tree was assessed as having high, medium or low bat potential.

2.2.3. Other Protected Species - The survey assessed the site for signs of use by protected species that could be affected by the proposed development, e.g., for nesting birds – nests, nesting material, etc., for badgers – badger holes, latrines, hair on wire fencing, snuffle holes, etc., for reptiles/amphibians – suitable habitat, presence in/under various materials, e.g., in wood piles, etc., for dormice - nests, hedge type, and connectivity, signs of feeding, etc., for water voles - droppings, burrows, feeding stations, signs of feeding and otter - holt, spraint, footprints, etc.

2.4. Field Equipment - Equipment used to carry out the survey, including a torch, ladder, endoscope, binoculars, compass, notebook, and pen.

2.5. Details of Surveyor - Katie Pollard BSc, MSc, Ph.D., MCIEEM. Director and Principal Ecologist at KP Ecology. Ecologist for over 20 years. Natural England Licences held: Bat Class Licence 2015-11253-CLS-CLS, Barn Owl Class Licence CL29/00032.

3.0. Constraints to Survey

The site visit provides a 'snapshot' of the ecological features and habitats present on-site during the survey. It doesn't take into account the seasonal variation of flora or fauna.

Therefore, habitats and species may have been overlooked due to the constraints of the season. However, the ecologist is confident that the findings of the survey and the conclusions reached are correct.

4.0. Results

Ecological Assessment

The results of the Ecological Assessment carried out on 24th January 2023 are presented below;

4.1. Site

The two sites (Site 1 & 2) on either side of Redhorn Close consist of amenity grassland, predominantly Perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* (Figs. 3 - 6) with seven trees spread over both the sites and non-native shrubs along the E boundary of Site 2.

Figure 3. View of Site 1 looking NW



Figure 4. View of site looking SW



Figure 5. Site 2 looking N



Figure 6. Site 2 looking S



Trees - The tree species identified on site include London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Leyland Cypress *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

The London plane, Silver birch and Hawthorn are to be retained. The other trees will be removed. None of the trees have potential roost features (PRFs) for bats.

Shrubs - There are some Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster frigidus* shrubs along the E boundary of Site 2. These will all be removed.

4.3. Protected Species

There are no protected or notable species, protected habitats, or habitats to support protected species on the site, except for boundary hedges suitable for nesting birds. No further work is required.

4.3.1. Bats - There are no buildings on site. The trees have no potential roost features (PRFs) for bats. No further action is required.

4.3.2. Badgers - There was no evidence of badgers or suitable habitats for badgers on site. Therefore, the proposed development will have no adverse impacts on badgers. No further action is required.

4.3.3. Nesting Birds - The mature trees offer a suitable habitat for nesting birds. None of the trees will be removed during bird nesting season (1st March - 31st August) unless a qualified person has conducted a breeding bird survey, which is negative.

4.3.4. Great Crested Newts/Amphibians - The area affected by the works does not provide suitable habitats for amphibians. Therefore, amphibians are considered absent from the development site, and there will be no adverse impacts on amphibians. No further action is required.

4.3.5. Reptiles - As with amphibians, the site does not provide suitable habitats for reptiles. Reptiles are therefore considered absent from the area; there will be no adverse impacts on any reptiles. No further action is required.

4.4. MAGIC Search

The site is within 400m of Ham Common Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Turin Moor Local Nature Reserve. It is also within 1km of Poole Harbour SSSI, Ham Common LNR, Poole Harbour SPA, Poole Harbour Ramsar and Dorset Heathlands Ramsar.

5.0. Conclusion

There are no statutorily protected sites on or adjacent to the site. No protected species, evidence of protected species, or habitats for protected species are present on the site except for the mature trees that offer opportunities for nesting birds. None of the trees are to be removed during bird nesting season (1st March - 31st August) unless a suitably qualified person has carried out a breeding bird survey which is negative.

As the site lies between 400m - 5km of Dorset Heathlands, the mitigation strategy set out in the 'Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025, Supplementary Planning Document' (Dorset Council & BCP Council, 2020) will apply to the proposed residential development on site.

To obtain Biodiversity New Gain on-site (as required under NPPF, 2021 and the Environmental Act 2021), two integral bat boxes will be built into the SE elevations of each of the pair of semi-detached houses, and two integral swift bricks will be built into the NW elevations of each of the pair of semi-detached houses.

Each household will be given information about the biodiversity measures on site with their new Home User Guide. The ecologist will supply this.

6.0. Biodiversity Net Gain

- Bats - Two integral bat boxes will be built into each SE elevation of the semi-detached houses. There will be a total of four boxes. (Fig. 7). There will be no lighting near the entrance to the bat roost. The boxes will be as near to the eaves as possible and not near any windows.

Figure 7. SE elevation - position of bat boxes in Plots 1 & 2 and Plots 3 & 4



- Birds - Two integral swift bricks will be built into the NW elevation of each pair of semi-detached houses (Fig. 8). Other bird species can use Swift bricks. The bricks will be a minimum of 5m from the ground.

Figure 8. NW elevation - position of swift bricks in Plots 1 & 2 and Plots 3 & 4



7.0. Mitigation

- Vegetation - No vegetation will be removed during bird nesting season (1st March - 31st August) unless a suitably qualified person has conducted a negative breeding bird survey.
- Trees - Any new trees planted on site will be native.
- Hedgehogs - All garden fencing on site will have Hedgehog-friendly gravel boards/holes (10cm x 10cm) to allow hedgehogs to move through the gardens and out into the surrounding area.

8.0. References

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Froglife (1999). Reptile surveys. An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. (Advice Sheet 10).

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Oldham, R.S., Keeble, J., Swan, M.J.S. & Jeffcote, M. (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155.

Poole Local Plan (Nov 2018) <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Planning-policy/Current-Local-Plans/Poole/Docs/Final-version-28.11.18.pdf-for-web.pdf>

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Ecologist Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAPd', written in a cursive style.

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