



Hampshire
Ecological Services
Consultant Ecologists

Roberts & Tréguer
The Green
29 Clerkenwell Green
London
EC1R 0DU

25/01/2024

Attn: Calin Barbu

Dear Mr Barbu

Ecological update survey at Orchard House, Orchard Lane, Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AD.

A site visit was carried out by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd on the 18th December 2023 in order to carry out an ecological update survey of the site, particularly the location of proposed new greenhouse, at Orchard House, Orchard Lane, Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AD. The site location is shown in *Figures 1 and 2*.

The advice contained within the existing report for the site is still considered valid (Ecological Appraisal Report Rev2: Orchard House, Orchard Lane, Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AD. February 2022, Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd).

The site visit was carried out by ecologist Adam Rye BSc (Hons) who is experienced in undertaking surveys for protected species including bat roost surveys and is accredited under level 2 class bat licence 2015-17894-CLS-CLS and had previously carried out the compliance check as an Accredited Agent under the site-specific bat mitigation licence 2022-61531-EPS-MIT.

The weather conditions during the survey were 12°C and dry with 80% cloud cover and a light air (Beaufort scale 1).

The development site is the entirety of the property and includes a replacement house, kit store, pool house, shed, garage, bin store, yoga deck, tennis courts and a swimming pool. The house will be surrounded by lawn to the east and south with ornamental shrubs in the lawn and a mixture of mature trees, hedges and scrub beyond.

The old house has been demolished under bat licence 2022-61531-EPS-MIT from Natural England. As part of this a dedicated bat house has been built to the east of the house near the site boundary.

Construction of the new house and associated garage, kit store and pool house are currently underway. As such the areas surrounding these areas are, as is typical for construction site, mainly bare ground with occasional weeds or residual vegetation at the edges. The remainder of the site has been fenced off with Heras fencing to prevent plant access and as such the previous report remains valid for these areas, as does its mitigation and enhancement measures.

A new greenhouse is proposed to be constructed on the south side of the site, near the boundary, just down from the tennis court and pool house. The plant species observed in this area are widespread and common and as such have no conservation importance from a botanical point of view. In addition, most of this area falls within the existing construction zone and as such it is not anticipated that the new greenhouse will have a negative effect on the habitats and plant and animal species on site. However, as a precautionary measure any longer vegetation, such as the edges, will be cut to just above ground level (approximately 10-30cm) in February and then cleared under ecological supervision in March/ April.

If any active bird's nests are found within the construction zone prior to or during works, a 5m buffer zone will be established around them and they will be temporarily fenced off to prevent plant or personnel disturbing the nest until the end of the breeding bird season (or until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer in use).

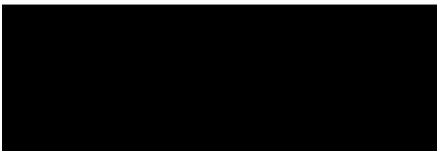
The areas of scrub and woodland on site provide good foraging/ hibernation habitat for hedgehogs and amphibians such as toads. Therefore, any piles of logs and brash and/ or leaves within the construction zones, as well as stored materials) will be carefully removed by hand to ensure that they are not being used by hedgehogs, amphibians such as toads, or reptiles such as slow-worms.

Noise should be limited where possible. Common construction activities likely to result in novel disturbance events include excessive vehicle revving, reversing alarms, certain power tools and loud, percussive noises (e.g. via concrete breaking, piling). Research has shown that noise levels approaching 70 decibels (dB) result in the most profound responses from bird species (i.e. site abandonment), whereas general background construction noise below c.55dB is unlikely to result in disturbance. It appears that irregular yet frequent loud noise exceeding 70dB is the most likely to result in effects, and that impacts can be observed for distances up to 300m in some species. Therefore, no breakers or noisy plant will be used during the works. In addition, dB readings will be taken at the water's edge when the works is being undertaken. If noise levels are above 69dB then screens will be used around the equipment on the Heras fencing to dampen the sound further.

Therefore, it is not considered that noise disturbance will be a problem for wintering (or nesting) birds.

Plants that attract insects are generally beneficial for vegetable and fruit growing as well as for wildlife in general. Therefore, to enhance the ecological value of the site, the landscaping in and adjacent to the new greenhouse, fruit cages and growing area, should incorporate a mixture of native and non-native species of value to wildlife. This mixture will encourage a diversity of insects, which in turn will attract different species. Flowers that bloom throughout the year, including both annuals and herbaceous perennials, are beneficial. Night-flowering blossoms attract night-flying insects, which in turn provide prey for bats. Examples of suitable plant species that could be planted to encourage wildlife include those in the tables in *Appendix A*. Approximate flowering periods are listed in the tables.

Yours sincerely,



John Poland CEnv MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist

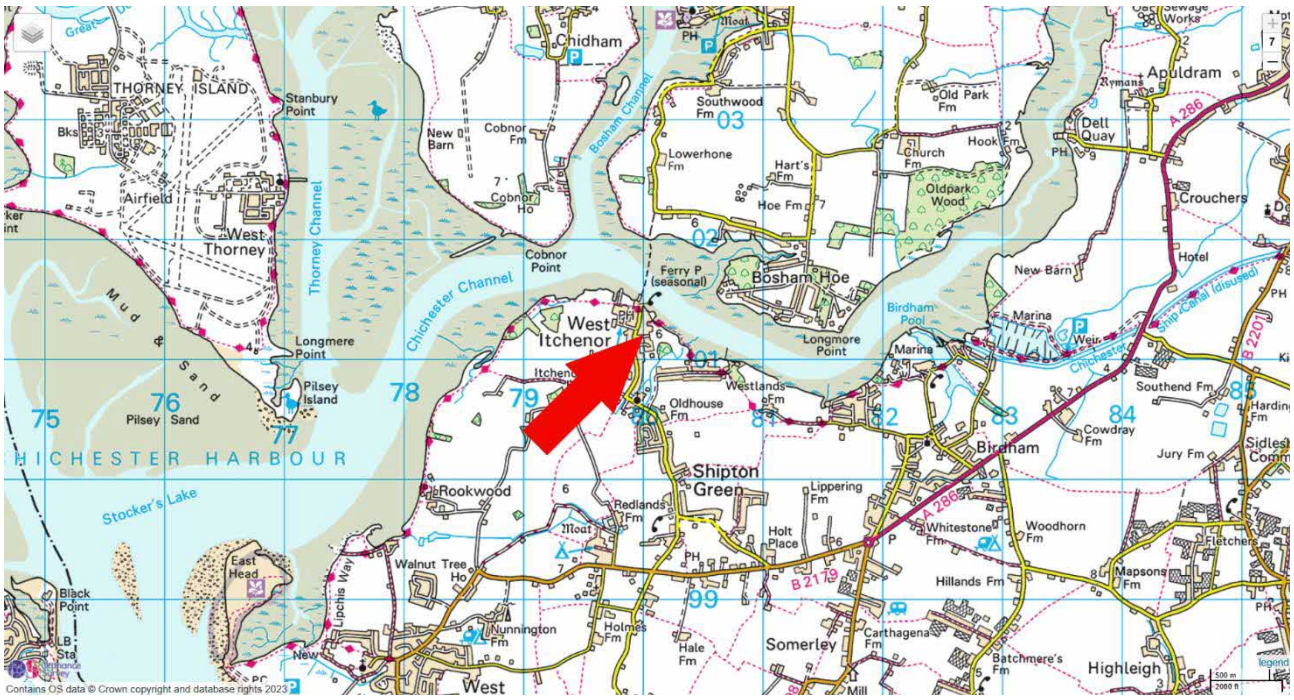
For and on behalf of HAMPSHIRE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Figures

Figure 1. Aerial photographs showing the location of the site.



Figure 2. Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the site (as indicated by red arrow).



Appendix A: Examples of planting for wildlife

Table 1. Native and non-native species that could be incorporated into the landscaping.

Species	Common Name	Approximate flowering period
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Early summer
<i>Aubretia</i> species	Aubretia	Spring to early summer
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Darwin's Barberry	Spring
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft	Summer to autumn
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Cornflower	Spring to summer
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Knapweed	Summer to autumn
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian	Summer to autumn
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Summer
<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	Sweet William	Summer
<i>Echinacea</i> species	Echinacea	Summer to autumn
<i>Erysimum</i> species	Wallflowers	Spring to early summer
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn marigold	Spring to summer
<i>Hebe</i> species	Hebes	Summer to autumn
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Autumn
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's-violet	Spring to summer
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	English Bluebell	Spring
<i>Hylotelephium spectabile</i>	Ice plant 'Pink lady'	Early autumn
<i>Hypericum</i> species	St John's wort	Spring
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Spring to summer
<i>Jasminum officinale</i>	Common White Jasmine	Summer to autumn
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Garden Lavender	Summer
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	Summer
<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i>	Poached egg plant	Summer
<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>	Perfoliate Honeysuckle	Summer
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Italian Honeysuckle	Summer to autumn
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle	Spring
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Summer to autumn
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	Spring
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple	Spring
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	Spring
<i>Malva</i> species	Mallow	Summer to autumn
<i>Matthiola longipetala</i>	Night-scented stock	Summer
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood forget-me-not	Spring
<i>Nicotiana</i> species	Tobacco plant	Summer
<i>Oenothera</i> species	Evening primroses	Summer to autumn
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn poppy	Summer
<i>Phacelia</i> species	Phacelia	Summer to autumn
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Spring
<i>Rosa</i> species	Rose	Summer
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	Spring to summer
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	Summer
<i>Saxifraga fortunei</i>	Cherry pie	Summer to autumn
<i>Scabiosa</i> species	Scabious	Summer
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	Spring

<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Night-scented Catchfly	Summer to autumn
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Summer
<i>Verbena</i> species	Vervain	Summer to autumn
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring-tree	Spring to summer
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	Summer

Table 2. Examples of suitable garden herbs that could be planted in and around the site to encourage wildlife.

Species	Common Name	Approximate flowering period
<i>Angelica</i> species	Angelica	Summer to autumn
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Spring to early autumn
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	English marigolds	Summer to autumn
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Summer to early autumn
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's-violet, often sold as Sweet Rocket	Spring to summer
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	Hyssop	Summer to early autumn
<i>Matthiola bicornis</i>	Night-scented Stock	Spring to autumn
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon balm	Summer
<i>Monarda</i> species	Bergamot	Summer to early autumn
<i>Nicotiana</i> species	Tobacco-plant	Spring to autumn
<i>Oenothera</i> species	Evening-primroses	Summer
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	Summer
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Spring
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	Summer to autumn
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Night-scented Catchfly	Summer to autumn
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Spring to summer
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew	Summer to early autumn
<i>Thymus</i> species	Thyme	Summer