

Mr. S. Minikin
Mainstream Commercial Finance Ltd
9 Westfield Dr
Harrow
London HA3 9EG

13/12/10

Dear Sirs,

Re. 53 Fitzroy Park [Ecology]

I am director and consultant at Arbtech Consulting Ltd., a London-based firm of arboricultural and ecological consultants. I met with you and representatives from London Borough of Camden and Emrys Architects at the site on 26/11/2010.

My role was to discuss with Mr. B. Genovese (Ecologist, LPA) what the ecological implications for the site are, in the context of the planning application; and agree on a broadly acceptable plan to ensure that the site's ecological value is enhanced.

Our earlier survey (Mr. M. Liston, ecologist, Arbtech: 23/06/2010) noted that there was almost no potential for any European protected species on the site, inc. for example bats, rare reptiles, etc. A cursory assessment by Ben and I confirmed this. It was felt by both Ben and I that provided that any site activity which impacted upon trees and mature shrubs in the garden was confined to September to February inclusive, no disturbance to nesting bird species would be caused.

We concluded that no further surveys were necessary for ecological receptors at the site. In terms of enhancement; several concepts were discussed and agreed to, as follows:

- i. Trees felled as part of the development proposal would be retained within the site as log piles, to provide the basis for a food chain. Rotting logs provide habitat for fungi and invertebrates, which in turn help to ensure that the nutrients within the trees' wood is not exported from the site, and that users of the site (birds, etc) can make use of natural sources of food.
- ii. The woodchip created by felled trees could be used wherever possible as infill material for garden footpaths. Woodchip retains moisture and nutrients throughout the year and helps provide a resource base for invertebrates and other fauna.

- iii. Grass mixes would be selected to incorporate wildflowers and native grass species wherever possible, again to attract wildlife such as bees, butterflies and other insects.
- iv. Landscaping treatments would incorporate naturalised or native species of plants that wherever possible provide a compliment to existing or new contributions to a food chain. (E.g. there are wild strawberry *Fragaria vesca* plants on site. These should be retained, transplanted, added to or incorporated into the final landscape scheme.

All of these measures will ensure that a sound food chain and habitat base is created which in turn will retain and attract birds, bats and many other native wildlife species to the site.

In conclusion, the view of both the council ecologist and Arbtech is that the focus on ecological issues at the site should be one of enhancement, rather than protecting the relatively poor wildlife value that exists currently. This can be adequately achieved by including the LPA in any landscaping scheme decisions and inviting their input as well as ours when designing the creation of new habitat at the site.

If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me via 07985 337524.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. Oates
Director

Cc. Mr. B. Genovese (ben.genovese@camden.gov.uk)
Mr. M. Blackden (mblackden@emrysarchitects.com)