

Our ref: B-BRR-121-003

Stephen Pargiter
Senior Technical Director
Barratt Homes Ltd
Wallis House
Great West Road
Brentford
Middlesex
TW8 9BS

24th March 2015

Dear Stephen,

Tree Inspection, Camden Road, London

Background

Barrett Homes Ltd is redeveloping a site at Camden Road, London. The development plans involve the demolition of all existing buildings on site and the provision of a new apartment building. Two trees (T1 and T9 on Figure 1) on site with the potential to support breeding birds will be affected by the development. A condition attached to planning consent for the development states:

'All removal of trees, hedgerows, shrubs, scrub or tall herbaceous vegetation shall be undertaken between September and February inclusive. If this is not possible, then before the relevant part of each Phase commences a suitably qualified ecologist shall be employed to check the areas concerned immediately to ensure that no nesting or nest-building birds are present, and a report of the ecologist's findings shall be provided to the council for approval in writing. If any nesting birds are present then the vegetation shall not be removed until the fledglings have left the nest.'

Thomson Ecology previously provided a quotation for nesting bird assessment for the site recommending the above planning condition to be discharged based on the works being carried out outside of the breeding bird season. However, as works to these trees was not undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, Thomson Ecology were commissioned on 18th March 2015 to undertake a check of the trees to be affected by the development to ensure that no nesting or nest-building birds are present. Additionally, a ground level tree assessment for bats was undertaken of trees T1 and T9 to assess their potential to support roosting bats. The removal of T1 is scheduled to take place on 28th March 2015, with the date for pollarding work to T9 to be confirmed.

Methodology

T1 is located in the western corner of the site and T9 is located in the southern corner of the site (see Figure 1). The removal of T1 and pollarding of T9 is required as part of the development. The breeding

bird check was carried out in conjunction with the bat inspection with evidence of nests or nest-building material looked for. The survey was carried out on 23rd March 2015.

In addition, each tree was inspected from ground level using high powered optics to check for features with the potential to support roosting bats, with particular attention paid to:

- Woodpecker and rot holes;
- Loose bark, splits and cracks;
- Presence or absence of ivy or dense epicormic growth; and
- Crevices and holes.

Results

No evidence of nesting or nest-building birds was identified in T1 or T9 during the site visit. Both trees were assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats.

Legal and Planning Policy Issues

Both trees have negligible potential to support roosting bats, therefore there should be no legal and planning policy issues with respect to bats and the removal/pollarding of the trees.

During the site visit, no evidence of nesting or nest-building birds was identified in T1 or T9. However, as the works to the trees are not scheduled to take place immediately, it is possible for breeding birds to build a nest within the trees prior to the works taking place.

All birds, eggs and nests are protected from damage and destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. If during the removal of T1 an active nest is discovered, advice should be sought from an ecologist and all works should cease until such a time that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

As there is no confirmed timeframe for the works to T9, it is recommended a check for the presence of breeding birds is undertaken prior to the pollarding of T9 to ensure the works are carried out in line with relevant legal and planning policy issues with regard to breeding birds.

Conclusion


Providing the recommendations made within this letter report are followed, the works to T1 and T9 should be compliant with legislation and planning policy with respect to breeding birds and bats.

Yours sincerely



PP
Verity Dickie BSc GradCIEEM
Ecologist

Encl: Figure 1: Tree Locations

- Legend
- Scattered Broadleaved Trees 
 - Hard Standing 
 - Site Boundary 

DRAFT

Site Grid Reference: 529,232 184,354
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Scale at A3	1:350		
Drawn	AC	Checked	NS
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Client	Barratt Homes Ltd		
Figure Number	1		
Figure Title	Location of trees to be removed / pollarded		

