Ashgrove Ecology
Advice for Business

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By email: twilliams@firstplan.co.uk

2nd August 2018

Dear Tim,

RE: UPDATE TO ECOLOGY SURVEY – 16-18 CHENIES STREET, CAMDEN

This letter is to confirm that the ecology site survey for 16-18 Chenies Street was updated on 18th July 2018. The purpose of the survey was to inform a planning application to demolish part of the rear of 16 and 18 Chenies Street, and alter, extend and refurbish these buildings.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site, which comprises two buildings, is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ296818. In 2016, the site was the subject of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, which included an assessment of the potential of the site to support roosting bats (see report: Ashgrove Ecology (2016) 16-18 Chenies Street: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal). The survey detailed below updates the baseline ecological conditions reported in 2016.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

A site walkover was undertaken on 18th July, 2018 to identify the habitats on the site and record any opportunities for the site to support rare, notable or protected species. During the site visit the

exterior and interior of the buildings were assessed for any potential to support roosting bats using the methodology set out in the Bat Conservation Trust's Good Practice Guidelines[1].

3.0 RESULTS

The survey confirmed that the habitats on the site were the same as those detailed in the 2016 ecology report, i.e. that the site was dominated by two buildings. A small area of tarmac, which was used for car parking, was present at the rear of the buildings. The site lies in an urban location in the London Borough of Camden and is surrounded by roads and high-density buildings, including offices and commercial buildings. There are no street trees, or other types of vegetation, immediately adjacent to the site.

Consistent with the 2016 ecology report, the buildings were assessed as having low potential to support roosting bats, based on the type of buildings, their condition and their location in the landscape. No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the survey. Furthermore, there was no evidence of nesting birds or other wildlife on the site.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from the 2016 report are still appropriate, these include:

- In accordance with the Regional Planning Policy, an area of green roof should be established. The green roof would contribute to London Biodiversity Action Plan targets by supporting acid grassland species. The green roof could attract a range of invertebrates, which could in turn support foraging birds and bats.
- Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) will not be planted.
- All planting is to be undertaken using peat free composts and soils.
- Two swift *Apus apus* boxes, will be integrated into the rear facade of the buildings.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The survey results confirm that the baseline ecology conditions at the site have not changed since 2016. Providing that the recommendations set out in the 2016 report are implemented, the conclusions of the original report are still valid i.e. that '*the site is considered highly unlikely to be critical for the maintenance of local populations of any species of fauna or flora of nature conservation importance....Providing that the above recommendations are implemented, the scheme would meet current planning policy and legislative requirements with regards to ecology and result in a minor beneficial impact on ecology at the site level*'.

[1] Collins. J. (Ed) (2016): Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists. Good Practice Guidelines. 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

I trust that the above is clear and helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding the ecology at this site.

Yours sincerely,
Ashgrove Ecology Limited

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