



PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL REPORT

N Block, Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7BW

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Introduction

A Phase 1 ecological survey was commissioned by Oaklands School, Waterloooville to support a planning application to replace the windows and re-roof N-Block on the school site.

Local Planning Authorities are required to take into account nature conservation issues when making planning decisions, by aiming to conserve and enhance biodiversity (National Policy Planning Framework 2012 (NPPF)) and by having regard to conserving biodiversity, which includes restoring and enhancing a population or habitat under the Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006)).

The remit of the ecologist is to recommend a course of action if bats or other protected species are found that protects the interest of the bats (and/or other protected species) as defined within The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Protection of Badgers Act 1981 (as protected). It also protects the building owners and their agents from committing an offence under these pieces of legislation and is the best course of action for primarily the welfare of the bats and other protected species, but with regard to the implementation of the owners' project.

Description of Site

N-block, is one of the many buildings on the Oaklands School site in Waterloooville (Fig. 1). It is a 1970s building of a typical SCOLA-type structure with flat, felted roof and exterior cladding panels (Figs. 2 - 7). The windows and doors are aluminium. Part of the felt on the roof was replaced two years ago, following water ingress into the building. N-block is situated on the N boundary of the site adjacent to Johnston's Coppice Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

Figure 1. Site Plan



Figure 2. W elevation of building



Figure 3. S elevation of N-block



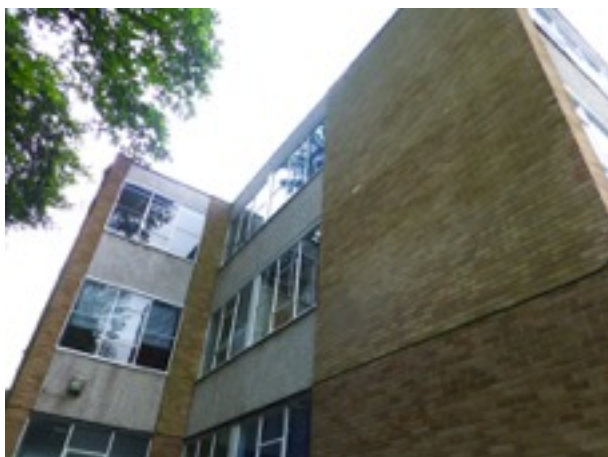
Figure 4. N elevation nearest to SINC boundary



Figure 5. E elevation of N-block



Figure 6. N elevation/rear of building



Method

A Phase 1 Ecological Survey was conducted on 29th June 2016. The survey assessed the building and the area immediately adjacent to the building for species and/or habitats protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Protection of Badgers Act 1996, The Hedgerow Regulations Act 2007, The CROW Act 2000 and the Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended). Species and habitats of principal importance and general biodiversity interest of the site (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) were also considered. Due to the nature of the proposed work, the survey focused on bats and birds. This type of survey allows the ecologist to determine whether the proposed works are likely to result in impacts to those habitats or species.

Bats - All the external walls, roof coverings, beams, ledges, windowsills, holes and cavities etc., were checked for evidence of use by bats. Regular use is indicated by staining, droppings and worn surfaces. Ladders, torch and binoculars were used as necessary and an endoscope was available for checking crevices.

Other protected species - The survey assessed the site for signs of used, e.g. 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., birds - suitable habitat, nests, nesting material, etc.

Habitats - Habitats/floral species on site were noted, as were adjacent areas.

Data Search - The location was checked for habitats protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) using the *Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)* Defra website.

A species records search from *Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)* was not commissioned, as there was no evidence of protected species to warrant this.

Results

a) Interior - The building is flat roofed, therefore there is no loft space to survey for presence of bats.

b) Exterior - There were no signs of any bats or nesting birds found on any of the external walls/windows of the building, ie, no droppings stuck to any windows or walls, no staining beneath any of the window ledges/felt and no birds' nests. In addition there were no gaps under the felted flat roof or any other part of the building that could be accessed by bats to roost.

The building is NOT being used by bats to roost.

Reptiles - No areas within the development site provide suitable habitat for reptiles.

Amphibians - No areas within the development site provide suitable habitat for amphibians.

Badgers - No areas within the development site provide suitable habitat for amphibians.

Vegetation - None around the building.

Results of MAGIC for protected sites (Defra website)

There are no statutory protected sites within 2km of Oaklands School. However there is a SINC, Johnstons' Coppice that borders the northern boundary of the site and there are bat records from the woodland (B. A. Crawford, pers.comm).

Conclusion

N-block has **NEGLIGIBLE** bat potential and it can therefore be concluded that there is no reasonable likelihood of bats being present/roosting in this building.

There is a boundary fence between the school and the adjoining SINC and given the nature of the small scale of the proposed works, ie, re-roofing and window replacement of one building, the integrity of the SINC will not be affected.

No further survey work is required.

References

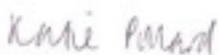
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Ecologist Signature



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