



Ecological Surveys Ltd

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To Whom it may concern,

This letter is intended to provide additional information with regards to any mitigation measures necessary for the protection of wildlife (other than those included within the associated PRNA report - PRNA_Thurso-Close_Reading-Borough-Council_February_2024) at Land at Thurso Close and Deveron Drive, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4YG in relation to the demolition of the buildings identified as having negligible potential to support roosting bats. This does not cover mitigation measures required for the demolition of the two buildings identified as having potential to support roosting bats as any such requirements are pending the further Bat Emergence Surveys.

The site is composed of a mixture of species poor grassland, apartment buildings, and hardstanding areas. This is set within an urbanised area within Tilehurst, Reading, provided very limited means of connectivity with good value habitat in the surrounding landscape for all but the most agile of species, such as bat and birds. As such, it is considered highly unlikely that any further protected species, other than those assessed within the PRNA, exist on site which could be impacted by proposed works. Nonetheless, there are some measures that will be put in place in order to minimise impacts to protected species on site and any unexpected finds. Specifically –

Bat Mitigation for Retained Buildings

The buildings assessed as having potential to support roosting bats are to be retained and protected until Bat Emergence Surveys have been completed to ascertain the presence / absence of roosting bats. In order to ensure no indirect impacts through disturbance, and following best practice guidelines, all demolition works must be carried out during the day, with no artificial lighting installed.

Precautionary Reptile / Amphibian Mitigation

From no earlier than March and no later than October a phased reduction of any grass immediately adjacent to the proposed demolition works will be carried out.

- Phase 1: Cut no less than 150mm in height on the first phase.
- Phase 2: Two days later, cut the ruderals again to no less than 50mm towards the Heras fencing.

Reptiles will not inhabit this cut area as it will no longer have any suitability, leaving the site available for the demolition phase.



Habitat within the immediate vicinity of the demolition zone will be managed to ensure it remains unappealing for habitation by reptiles. Maintain the vegetation at a short length within this area at no more than 50mm.

This cutting will be carried out by the appointed landscape personnel. Photos will be provided to the council following the first cut to 150mm, second cut to 50mm, and within 48 hours of the demolition works commencing. Should the council request further photos, these will be provided.

General Impact Avoidance Mitigation

All activities on site must bear in mind the potential for wildlife or the environment being harmed through the process of development from inception to end, with a proactive approach occurring for lawful protection of wildlife and the environment regarding use of materials, machines, chemicals, and human activity on site.

- Contractors must ensure that no harm can come to wildlife by maintaining the site efficiently, clearing away any material such as wire in which animals can become entangled and preventing access to toxic substances.
- Trenches or large excavations will be covered overnight to prevent wildlife such as badgers or hedgehogs falling in and failing to escape. If this is not possible then a strategically placed plank may provide a means of escape.
- Any large bore pipes will be capped at the end of the day to reduce the potential for badgers and other wildlife entering and becoming trapped.
- Piles of brush wood and or log piles will be carefully inspected for signs of wildlife prior to their removal. This is especially crucial during the period March – September (inclusive) as some species of bird choose such sites to construct their nests. Ideally removal of such features must be done outside of the nesting season. If nesting birds or reptiles are discovered, work must cease immediately with ecological advice sought.

These measures, combined with those outlined within the associated PRNA are considered to be sufficient to avoid significant negative impacts to protected species which could be present on site.

Tom Woo-Glover, BSc (Hons), MSc, NE Class 2 Bat Licence Holder, Senior Ecologist