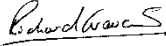
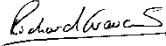




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PROVIDING TRUSTED ECOLOGICAL ADVICE

**PROPOSED NISHKAM FREE SCHOOL SITE, EXTENDED PHASE 1 SURVEY,
UPDATED 2015**

| Project | Prepared By | Approved by | Client | Status | Date |
|----------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| RGA012 | A.R. Graves CEcol CEnv FCIEEM | A.R. Graves CEcol CEnv FCIEEM | BAM CONSTRUCTION LTD | FINAL | July 15 |
| |  |  | | | |

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Summary | 4 |
| 2. Introduction | 5 |
| 3. Methods..... | 6 |
| Extended Phase 1 Survey..... | 6 |
| 4. Results..... | 9 |
| Desktop Study | 9 |
| Table 1 SINCs..... | 10 |
| Table 2 European Protected Species..... | 10 |
| Phase 1 Survey..... | 11 |
| Figure 1: Survey Waypoint Locations January 2013 Updated Sep 2014 | 12 |
| Protected Species..... | 13 |
| Invasive Species..... | 14 |
| 5. Assessment..... | 15 |
| Protected Sites..... | 15 |
| Habitats | 15 |
| Protected Species..... | 16 |
| Invasive Species..... | 17 |
| 6. Recommendations..... | 18 |
| Habitats | 18 |
| Protected Species..... | 18 |
| Invasive Species..... | 19 |
| 7. Conclusion | 21 |
| 8. References | 22 |
| 9. Appendices | 23 |
| Appendix 1 Phase 1 Survey Plan..... | 23 |
| Appendix 2 Species Lists | 24 |

1. Summary

Richard Graves Associates were requested to undertake an Extended Phase 1 survey of the site of the former White Lodge Club, Syon Lane in the London Borough of Hounslow to provide ecological information as part of a planning application for the development of Niskham Free School.

In April 2015 Richard Graves Associates were asked to update the assessment now a design for the school has been agreed and the Phase 2 surveys originally recommended in the report have been completed. AS further update was completed to assess tree removal proposed to facilitate proposals for a junction works along Syon Lane.

A Phase 1 and protected species walkover was conducted by Richard Graves in January 2013 and ecological information was requested from: Open sources, Greenspace Information for Greater London and the London Bat Group. This report presents the findings of the survey and further visits and provides an assessment of the ecological interest and makes recommendations.

As more than a year had passed since the original survey an update visit was undertaken in September 2014 to determine if there had been any significant changes on site. There had been no significant changes and the original assessment recommendations and conclusion remain valid.

The site comprises grassland, woodland, buildings and hard standing and is mostly of low ecological value, but with several large living and dead trees, which are of high ecological value, as they have high potential for bats. Two nationally protected sites (Local Nature Reserves) are within the two kilometre search radius but are sufficiently separated from the site by significant barriers (including the M4), so as not to require further consideration. 24 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance were recorded within the search area. Of these The Piccadilly Line in Hounslow (a site of Borough Importance Grade II) is adjacent and connected to the site.

There are no material considerations with respect to ecology, which should prevent the local planning authority granting an application for the development of a new school. Further survey work conducted by RPS in September 2014 did not record any evidence of protected species.

2. Introduction

Richard Graves Associates were instructed by MACE to undertake an Extended Phase 1 Survey at the site of the former White Lodge Club, Syon Lane, TW7 5PN located at grid reference: TQ 156 777 in the London Borough of Hounslow. The site is approximately 8.8 hectares (ha) in extent and is proposed as the location for Nishkam Free School. It is currently designated as Metropolitan Open Space, which is not in formal use. Richard Graves Associates were further instructed by BAM Construction Ltd to update the report in accordance with the current design (Ref: LA-WS-L90-01revAA with red line) and further survey work undertaken by RPS (Knight, 2014)

The project consists of the construction of a new “all-through” (4-19) school for circa 1400 pupils with associated levels of staff.

The Extended Phase 1 survey is required to identify ecological features within the site and make appropriate recommendations in support of a planning application. The survey identifies the habitats present within the site and evidence of ecological importance including features suitable for protected species.

Species, where they are noted in the report, are named using their trivial (common) names, in accordance with the appropriate sources. The scientific (proper) names are presented with the trivial names in Appendix 2.

An additional survey of trees proposed for removal to facilitate a revised road junction for the site was undertaken on the 15th July 2015.

3. Methods

Extended Phase 1 Survey

The Extended Phase 1 Survey is described in *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment* (Institute of Environmental Assessment, 1995). This approach is based on: a Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC, 2010 (Revised)), which includes classification of basic habitats and standard mapping, to which are added a desktop survey and a protected species walkover. The standard for Phase 1 plans, which include the use of target notes, is deviated from as the 'target notes' are instead presented as GPS waypoints on a Google Earth-Pro aerial view. This aids accuracy as the observations are geo-referenced to +/- 5 metres and may be easier to interpret for non-specialists.

Desktop Study

Baseline data for protected sites and protected species is held for most parts of the country, some of this, in particular protected sites, is open source (freely available) and some, in particular species information, may be supplied by local records centres for a charge. Given the location of the site in Greater London the following sources have been used:

- Natural England / Multi-Agency Geographic Information from the Countryside (MAGIC) websites
- Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL)

As GIGL no longer supply bat roost records or locations London Bat Group (LBG) which does hold these records was also contacted with a request for records.

The GIGL desktop search report has been referred to in the text and supplied to the client. In accordance with its terms and conditions of use it has not been included as an appendix to this report. Local Planning Authorities wishing to see the full report are advised to request a copy direct from GIGL in accordance with their service level agreement.

The London Bat Group Records referred to have been supplied to the client. In accordance with their terms and conditions of use their explicit permission is required to supply the records to third parties.

Protected Species Walkover and Phase 1 Survey

The site was visited by Richard Graves on the 25th January 2013 and revisited on the 3rd September 2014. Habitats were identified and are plotted on a map. Botanical species were recorded and are listed in Appendix 2. Features within the site suitable for, or indicating evidence of protected species and species of nature conservation significance were recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) application (Peto, 2010).

The buildings and structures on site were inspected externally and internally, where safe access was available and searched for evidence of bat roosts, and suitable features for roosting bats and nesting birds.

Trees proposed for removal as part of the revised junction with Syon Lane were assessed for ecological value and potential for protected species interest by Richard Graves in July 2015.

Surveyor qualification and experience:

Richard Graves BSc (Hons) MSc PGDip CEcol CEnv FCIEEM has over twenty years' experience as a practising ecologist and has undertaken, commissioned and reviewed several hundred Extended Phase 1 Surveys all over the UK, including many in Greater London. Richard is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM), a chartered ecologist and a chartered environmentalist. Richard is also class licenced for great crested newt surveys, a class licenced bat surveyor and author of current good practice guidelines.

RPS Surveys

RPS were commissioned to undertake the further (Phase 2) surveys recommended in this report, which include an assessment of the trees for bat roosting and reptile presence / absence surveys. Full details of these surveys are presented in a separate report (Knight, 2014).

Limitations

It should be noted by the user that the optimum survey season for Phase 1 is between March and September and that certain habitats and species may be less apparent at other times. However depending on the complexity of the habitats involved, it is usually still possible to obtain useful information at other times of year. The site was visited in January when certain species may not be apparent. This may include several plant species, nesting birds and bat activity. It is not considered likely that a survey during the optimum season would record any habitats not reported here. An update site visit was undertaken in September 2014, which is within the optimum season for Extended Phase 1 survey.

The Extended Phase 1 Survey methodology is not intended to and does not constitute a detailed habitat or species survey, therefore recommendations and conclusions extrapolated from the survey are the result of the conditions observed on site and the experience of the author and may need to be updated after detailed surveys (when recommended) have been completed.

The limitations to surveys undertaken by RPS are:

The bat tree assessment was undertaken in September. While still within the active season for bats (March to October), surveys undertaken at this time may miss different patterns of activity earlier in the year.

The reptile survey was undertaken during September and October 2014, which is within the appropriate season for reptile surveys (Froglife, 1999). However the temperatures recorded during three of the visits (in September) was above the level required for optimal surveys. However this may have been mitigated for by the enhanced density of refugia used (125 felts is a 42% increase on the 88, which would be required for a site of this size).

4. Results

Desktop Study

Statutorily Protected Sites

These sites are designated under legislation and protected from development. Potential impacts from development should be considered in relation to these sites.

The desktop study open source search indicates the following statutorily protected sites within the view of the search radius:

Syon Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Syon Park is located 2.2 kilometres to the southeast of the study site and is designated, primarily for its tall grass washland habitat. The SSSI is separated from the site by areas of housing, retail and industrial units and the major trunk road, the A4.

The Greenspace Information for Greater London desktop report (Greenspace Information for Greater London, 2013) includes the following statutory sites within the 2 km search radius:

Long Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) to the north is considered to be a remnant of ancient woodland and Blondin Nature Area LNR to the northeast, comprising a community orchard, wildflower meadow and pond (The London Borough of Ealing, 2013) within the London Borough of Ealing. Both LNRs are separated from the site by the M4.

Non-statutory Sites

Sites which are not of national significance but may contain features important for wildlife many be designated and given some protection under the planning system. In London these are known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Sites in London have been subject to survey and designated according to their importance in relation to habitats in London. The following designations are used:

- Metropolitan Importance
- Borough Importance Grade I
- Borough Importance Grade II
- Local Importance

There are 24 SINCs within the search radius, which includes those within the London Borough of Ealing in addition to Hounslow. The sites most pertinent to the proposed school site are listed in the following table in order of their proximity:

Table 1 SINCs

| Site | (Grade) / Reference | Interest | Proximity |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Piccadilly Line Railsides in Hounslow | (Borough GII) HoBII12 | Woodland scrub and grassland forming a green corridor | Adjacent to and forming the northern / north-western boundary of the site |
| Wyke Green Golf Course | (Borough GII) HoBII08 | Relict ancient woodland | 30m to the northeast separated from the site by Syon Lane |
| Osterley Park | (Borough GI) HoBI08 | Large area of parkland | Approximately 200m to the northwest separated from the site by housing and the Piccadilly Line |

London Open Space and Habitat Survey

An area of woodland within the site was surveyed as part of the Greater London Authority's on-going habitat survey. The GIGL report lists this parcel as 25104/01, identifying it as 1 ha of native broad-leaved woodland. The survey was completed in 1999.

Species

The GIGL report includes several hundred records for species including those that are protected or of nature conservation interest.

European Protected Species recorded with the search area are noted in the following table:

Table 2 European Protected Species

| Species | Closest Distance | Date of Record |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Great Crested Newt | 1249 m | 2005 |
| Bats (all species) | 499 m | 1994 |

In addition the nationally protected reptile; slow-worm was recorded 1915 m from the site in 2002.

Certain species are particularly sensitive to disturbance or subject to persecution. In these cases GIGL release data on presence within a search area but not their location. Of those species which are regarded as confidential, which are also protected only hobby, which is listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA is listed. Badger and adder are not included in the search results.

The only bat record supplied by LBG (London Bat Group, 2013) closer to the site than the records supplied by GIGL was a single observation of a pipistrelle over Wyke Green Golf Course from 1994.

Records within the normal dates for consideration, obtained from surveys at Osterley Park include the following species: soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, common pipistrelle, Leisler's bat and noctule. The nearest roost record is for common pipistrelle at Syon House in 2006.

Phase 1 Survey

Site Description

The site comprises 8.8 ha of open grassland, woodland, buildings and hard-standing, which is located and was accessed from the Syon Lane entrance on its north-eastern boundary. It is bordered by Syon Lane, the Piccadilly Line section, between Boston Manor and Osterley, to the northwest, Wood Lane to the southwest and Braybourne Drive and residential properties to the southeast. Most of the site is surrounded by a belt of trees and scrub, with the northeast area comprising broad-leaved semi-natural woodland. The centre and majority of the site is former amenity grassland which has been left unmanaged for some time. The remaining buildings comprise the former lodge complex, located close to the Syon Lane access and a series of dilapidated sheds close to the site access off Wood Lane. There is an area of hard-standing around the former lodge buildings and two car parks, within the north and east sections of the site. There is evidence of extensive fly-tipping around all of the site boundaries, with a considerable amount of spoil having been dumped to the rear of the lodge building.

Figure 1: Survey Waypoint Locations January 2013 Updated Sep 2014



Image © Google EarthPro 2013

Woodland and Scrub

The site is surrounded by a belt of woodland and scrub with a larger area of woodland in the northeast corner. The woodland habitat type is broad-leaved semi-natural and contains several native species including: pedunculate oak, ash, elm, common lime, holly, yew, cherry, elder and some introduced species: evergreen oak, red oak, sycamore and laurel. The understory is relatively poor and comprises mostly bramble and ivy. There are several large trees including oak and ash within the woodland block and surrounding belt, there are also several large dead trees which remain standing (Figure 1). The woodland appears to have been left unmanaged and allowed to grow naturally. Scrub, in particular cherry, is encroaching into the grassland areas to the northwest of the lodge buildings and into the section of grassland enclosed by woodland to the northwest. A mammal hole was located within the north-eastern block of woodland. A small section of woodland adjacent to Syon Lane and the houses of Crowntree Close has been recently cleared for access, leaving several log piles and revealing an additional patch of Japanese knotweed.

Grassland

The majority of the site comprises grassland, which was formerly planted as, and managed as, amenity grassland and used for sports pitches. It is now poor semi-improved grassland comprising primarily: perennial rye-grass with occasional other grasses (Yorkshire fog and annual meadow grass) and patches of other species including yarrow, marsh thistle and docks. The grass, having been left un-mown, is forming tussocks in places. The grassland immediately adjacent to the lodge buildings has had a considerable amount of spoil dumped on it, forming several

mounds which have now also grassed over. The disturbed nature of the soils here has also encouraged the growth of ephemeral species including: buddleia, docks and bramble as well as small patch of Japanese knotweed.

Buildings and Hard-standing

Building group 1 (Figure 1) comprises the former lodge and outbuildings. This is a single storey complex composed of concrete slabs and bricks with a flat, mostly felt roof forming a small void over concrete slab roofs. A water tank enclosure is above the main building. There is wooden cladding around the main entrance and flashings around the roof edges. Parts of the inside of the building were inspected from the outside but the building is unsecured and was unsafe to inspect internally in more detail. No direct evidence of roosting bats or nesting birds was observed. The lodge is surrounded by hard-standing and has had a large amount of building and domestic refuse dumped to the rear. There is a dense stand of Japanese knotweed located immediately adjacent to the south-eastern face of the building.

Building group 2 (Figure 1) is located to the southeast of the Wood Lane entrance and comprises several single storey sheds constructed with single skin brick, breeze block or corrugated metal with corrugated open roofs with no voids. The buildings were secured so it was not possible to inspect them internally. The adjacent car park was in current use and is tarmacked. The car park to the northwest of the Wood Lane entrance is currently disused and has buddleia growing through several cracks. There is also a log pile, possibly formed from trees cleared from the adjacent Piccadilly Line, some fly tipping of builders waste. Two large secured shipping containers placed on its south-western edge are also present.

Trees Adjacent to Syon Lane

Nineteen mature oak and ash trees and a further two dead trees along the boundary of the site with Syon Lane were assessed for ecological features in July 2015. None of the trees currently contained signs of nesting birds. Most of the living and dead trees did contain features that have potential to support bats and invertebrate interest.

Protected Species

The survey recorded features suitable for the following species:

- Bats
- Badger
- Nesting birds
- Reptiles

In addition one mammal hole was noted in the north-western section of the woodland. Fauna recorded during the site visit included: fox, magpie, ring-necked parakeet, carrion crow, green woodpecker woodpigeon and migrant hawk.

Bats

Four groups of large living and dead trees were recorded. These trees contained all of the features suitable for supporting bats roosts including: ivy, loose bark, splits, cracks and holes. The woodland and grassland all provide foraging habitat and corridors for bat movement.

The RPS Survey (Knight, 2014) recorded a low number of common and soprano pipistrelles and noctules over-flying the site and no roost exits.

Badger

The woodland habitats present provide suitable cover for badgers, while the woodland and grassland provide suitable habitat for foraging. No evidence in the form of setts or other field signs were recorded for this species during the surveys.

Nesting Birds

The woodland and scrub as well as the remaining buildings provide suitable cover for nesting birds. The grassland is probably unsuitable for ground nesting species, being too short and liable to disturbance. However, if left un-managed, it may become more suitable over time. The whole of the site provides suitable foraging habitat for nesting birds.

Reptiles

There is some suitable habitat for common reptile species, in particular slow-worm and common lizard within the site, including spoil mounds, grassland and scrub. If left un-managed the site may develop greater reptile potential.

The RPS survey (Knight, 2014) recorded no reptiles to be present within the site.

Great Crested Newt

There is no suitable breeding habitat within the site or within 500 m of the site and no records of GCN within a kilometre.

Invasive Species

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed was recorded at two locations close to building group 1 and within the woodland belt adjacent to Syon Lane (not present (post treatment in 2015)).

5. Assessment

Protected Sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA).

The nearest SSSI is Syon Park. The site is separated from the SSSI by a distance of over 2 km and significant physical boundaries (including the A4). There are unlikely to be any impacts on the SSSI from the development of a new school at this site.

Local Nature Reserves are designated and protected under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are usually owned and managed by the relevant local authority, with a management plan approved by Natural England.

The protected sites: Long Wood and Blondin LNR's are also separated from the study area by the M4 and significant areas of other habitat, so there are unlikely to be any significant impacts resulting from the proposed development.

Non Statutory Sites

Of the 24 SINCS recorded in the GIGL search only three (Table 1): Osterley Park, the Piccadilly Line rail corridor in Hounslow and Wyke Green Golf Course are close enough to consider further. Osterley Park is separated from the site by the Piccadilly Line, adjacent land and residential properties; Wyke Green Golf Course is separated from the site by Syon Lane, which is a significant barrier to the movement of some species.

The Piccadilly rail corridor is connected to the wider site but separated from the proposed school site. It is a fairly intensively managed section with scrub and grassland habitat and some smaller trees adjacent to the woodland of the northern / north-western part of the site. There is some potential for species to move between the site and the rail corridor, although the GIGL supplied SINC citation does not include an indication of its faunal interest, reptiles and badgers are protected species known to inhabit rail corridors, which the boundary fence would do little to exclude from the site.

Habitats

Woodland

The north-western section of woodland is identified as woodland in the GLA open space and habitat survey data supplied by GIGL. The woodland belt which surrounds the site is dominated by large mature and dead trees and includes a species poor understory of shade tolerant species. As a habitat it is not of high ecological quality. However the individual larger trees (Figure 1) are of high

ecological value and the woodland provides significant foraging, nesting and roosting habitat within the local area.

Grassland

The majority of the site comprises former amenity grassland which has been left unmanaged. The grassland is species poor and while it has started to form tussocks in some areas has poor structural diversity. Most of the site appears to be used for informal recreation, including dog walking. This assists in reducing growth and would cause disturbance to animals, including birds attempting to nest on the ground and reptiles. Grass growing over spoil mounds close to building group 1 (Figure 1) has greater structural diversity, which may provide some cover for animals.

Buildings and Hard-standing

The buildings present within the site are in derelict, semi-derelict or poorly maintained conditions. They are all of single storey construction and have several gaps into the structures. They are of low ecological interest but may provide some opportunities for nesting birds.

Protected Species

Bats

Bats and their roosts are fully, European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitat Regulations) and the WCA. As EPS, local planning authorities are required to satisfy themselves that bats have been sufficiently considered before a planning application can be determined. British bat species are known to roost in buildings and trees, both of which are present. All of the buildings within the site are of low potential value for roosting bats. Many of the larger trees within the site contain many features which are suitable for roosting bats including: ivy-clad trunks, cracks, splits and holes and are of high potential. The woodland as a whole will also provide a local foraging area for bats. There are no known roosts within the desktop search radius. No evidence of bat roosting in the buildings was recorded during either survey visit. No evidence of roosting bats was recorded by RPS in September 2014 (Knight, 2014). As only one tree is to be removed and no roosts have been detected there are unlikely to be any direct impact on bats as a result of the development of the proposed school.

Nesting Birds

All British bird species are protected from disturbance while nesting under the WCA. The nesting season is commonly accepted as being between March to August inclusive. However birds may choose to nest at other times, during which they are still protected. The woodland, scrub and building habitats all provide habitat for nesting birds, with the woodland and grassland habitats all providing local foraging habitat.

Reptiles

The grassland and scrub habitat recorded around the edges of the site have potential to support populations of common reptile species. The main areas of grassland within the site are currently of low potential, but if left un-managed, have the potential to become more suitable. While no common reptiles have been noted within a kilometre of the site in the GIGL report the connectivity with the Piccadilly rail corridor and the presence of some suitable habitats (which may increase if left un-managed) indicates that there is a small possibility two of the commoner species, slow-worm and common lizard, being present.

The survey undertaken by RPS (Knight, 2014) indicates that reptiles are not currently present. Therefore there are unlikely to be any impacts on reptiles as a result of the construction of a new school.

Great Crested Newt

Great crested newts have not been recorded within a kilometre of the site and no suitable breeding ponds are present within it or within 500 m of it, this species is unlikely to be present.

Other Protected Species

The woodland habitat provides suitable cover for badgers. A single hole was located (Figure 1), likely to be too small for a badger and is probably a fox earth. Fox was also recorded by direct observation during the first site visit. However it was not possible to inspect all of the ground within the woodland belt because of the density of vegetation and safety concerns in one section. Connectivity with the surrounding habitats, in particular provided by the rail corridor means that it is possible for badgers to access the site and establish a presence. The absence of records would tend to reduce this likelihood, although as there is no badger group in London the species tends to be under recorded.

Invasive Species

Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed is highly invasive and listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA. It is an offence for a landowner to cause it to spread. Treatment and successful eradication of Japanese knotweed may take a substantial amount of time to complete. The plant also spreads very easily and can propagate from a small section of plant material.

6. Recommendations

Habitats

Woodland

Woodland is the most ecologically significant habitat on the site and it forms a significant resource for local species. It is therefore recommended that as much effort as possible is made to retain the existing woodland block and belt surrounding the site within the development. Where woodland is retained it could easily be enhanced by management to open up the canopy and encourage a more diverse ground flora. If possible deadwood and standing deadwood including the mature trees along Syon Lane, should be retained *in-situ* and used to create habitat piles for saproxylic species such as stag beetle and other invertebrates which provide prey for birds, bats and other species.

Grassland

The grassland is mostly of low ecological value, although it does provide some foraging habitat. Where retained it could be returned, to provide amenity facilities, through management or be enhanced ecologically through a regime of cutting and removing arisings and potentially scarifying and re-seeding areas with native wildflower species.

Buildings and Hard-standing

As the buildings may provide some habitat for nesting birds and other species it is recommended that they are demolished during the months of October to February to reduce the possibility of disturbing any wildlife. If it is necessary to demolish the buildings at other times of year they should be inspected by a suitably qualified individual immediately prior to demolition to confirm that is safe to do so.

Protected Species

Bats

The large trees and groups of trees within the site are likely to be identified for felling (in the case of dead trees) or surgery to make them suitably safe for a school site. As the trees have high bat potential, and if they contain any roosting bats, these works would need to be carried out under a Natural England EPS mitigation licence. In order to obtain a licence sufficient survey information is required. Each of the groups and individual main trees should have at least one dawn and dusk activity survey undertaken during the appropriate season (the season runs from March to October but for a single survey mid-summer is optimal). This would provide sufficient information in the case of a minor roost being discovered, however time should be allowed for a further two surveys if a more significant roost, such as a maternity roost is discovered. Whether a roost is discovered or not tree works

should be undertaken between October and February or preceded by an inspection by a suitably licenced climber. Subsequent surveys (Knight, 2014) have not recorded any roosting bats within the trees on site and it is understood that all but one tree (within the school site) will be retained.

If roosting bats were to be discovered in a tree to be felled or removed the licence would also require consideration of appropriate mitigation in the form of replacement roosting opportunities.

Prior to removal the nineteen living and two dead trees along Syon Lane an appropriate bat inspection and survey should be undertaken to ensure that these works do not disturb protected species and inform an EPS licence application if it is required.

Nesting Birds

It is recommended that any vegetation removal is timed to coincide with the season during which birds are least likely to nest (September - February). If clearance of vegetation occurs outside of these times a suitably experienced individual should assess the area in advance of works and confirm that nesting birds are not present.

Reptiles

As the presence / absence survey (Knight, 2014) has not recorded reptiles they are unlikely to be present. However this situation may change over time. The site should be checked immediately prior to construction. Any areas of potential habitat should be carefully dismantled by hand before works.

Badgers

As there is a possibility of badgers occupying the site before development a pre-construction survey is recommended shortly prior to the start of works. When the site is operational good site practice to minimise harm to badgers and other wildlife should be adopted. Suitable measures include: fencing and covering of spoil mounds, securely fencing compounds, covering pits and trenches at night or providing a means of escape and ensuring water tanks and butts are covered.

Consideration of Lighting

The new school proposals should consider the design of lighting so that it minimises any impact on wildlife. The lighting scheme should be designed to minimise any lighting of retained vegetation and restrict lighting only to where it is needed. If there are areas where lighting is likely to impact on mature trees and woodland mitigation in the form of timing (during the most sensitive times of the year should be considered).

Invasive Species

Japanese knotweed

Suitable advice should be obtained about the treatment and removal of this species.

7. Conclusion

The majority of the site including: the grassland, buildings and hard standing are of low ecological interest and can be developed. Consideration should be given to areas that can be retained and enhanced. The woodland is of relatively low ecological interest but contains some important trees and provides an area of local foraging and shelter for wildlife. Where woodland is to be retained there is considerable potential for enhancement through management, which could form part of the learning resource for the school.

Further surveys undertaken in 2014 (Knight, 2014) indicate that the site does not support significant populations of bats or reptiles.

The proposed development occupies land which is of low ecological value and minimises the loss of any trees.

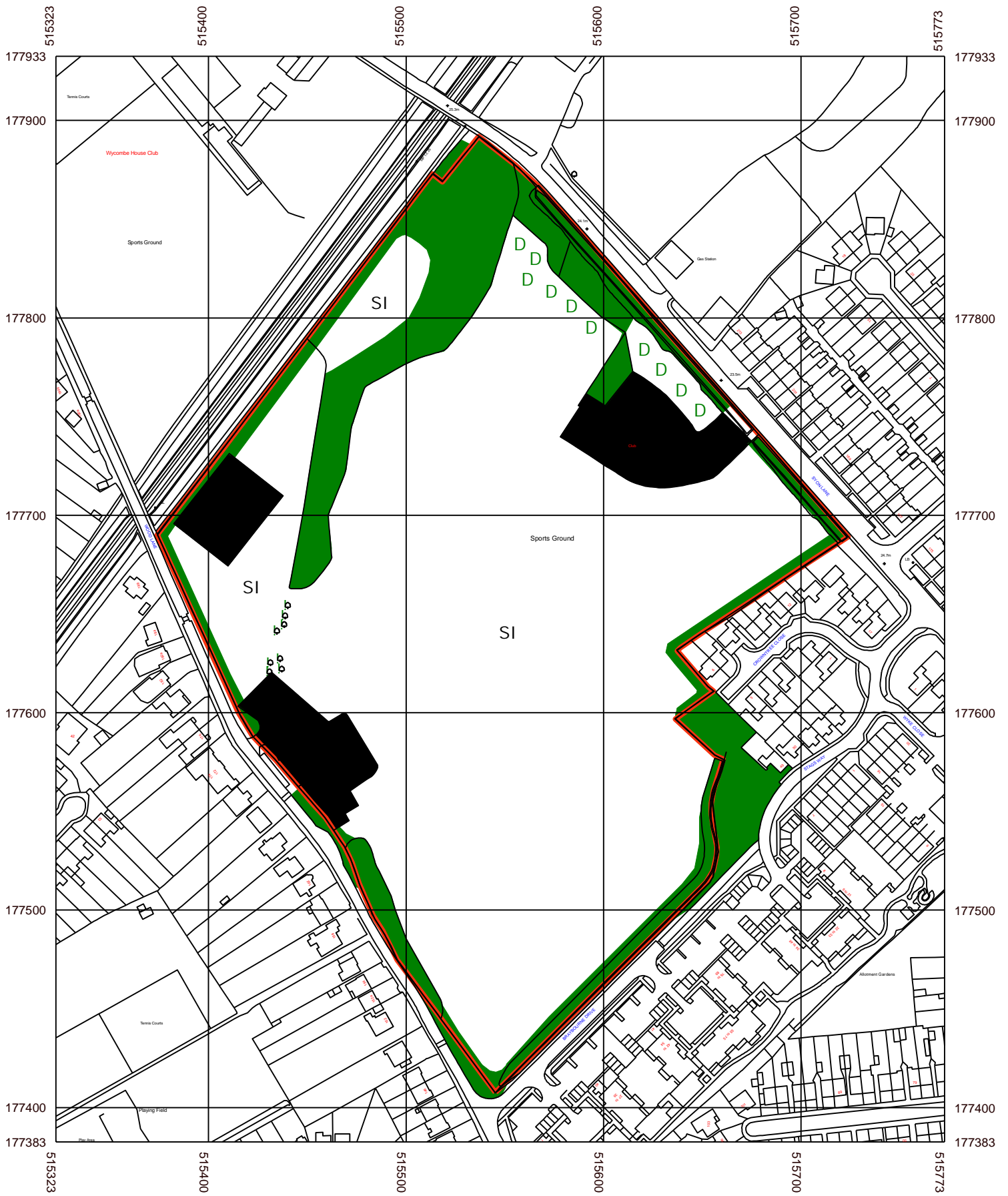
Given the incorporation of the recommendations above there are no material considerations of an ecological nature which should prevent the local planning authority from approving a planning application for development of the site as a new school.

8. References

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9. Appendices

Appendix 1 Phase 1 Survey Plan



Key

- ! Broadleaved tree
- D Scattered scrub
- Indicative site boundary
- Broadleaved semi-natural woodland
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland
- Buildings/hardstanding

Project: Proposed Nishkam Free School Site

Reference: RGA012

Title: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

Date: 05/02/2013



Appendix 2 Species Lists

Botanical names are recorded in accordance with the nomenclature in: (Stace, 2010)

Woodland & Scrub

| Scientific / Proper Name | Common / Trivial Name |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Buddleja davidii</i> | Buddleja |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Prunus avium</i> | Wild Cherry |
| <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> | Cherry Laurel |
| <i>Quercus ilex</i> | Evergreen Oak |
| <i>Quercus robur</i> | Pedunculate Oak |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i> | Red Oak |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Taxus baccata</i> | Yew |
| <i>Tilia × europaea</i> | Lime |
| <i>Ulmus</i> sp. | Elm |

Grassland

| Scientific / Proper Name | Common / Trivial Name |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Yarrow |
| <i>Cirsium palustre</i> | Marsh Thistle |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire Fog |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass |
| <i>Poa annua</i> | Annual Meadow grass |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Rumex</i> sp. | Dock |

Buildings and Hard-standing

| Scientific / Proper Name | Common / Trivial Name |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Buddleja davidii</i> | Buddleja |
| <i>Fallopia japonica</i> | Japanese Knotweed |

Fauna Recorded on Site

| Scientific / Proper Name | Common / Trivial Name |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Aeshna mixta</i> | Migrant hawker |
| <i>Columba palumbus</i> | Woodpigeon |
| <i>Corvus corone</i> agg. | Carrion crow |
| <i>Myodes glareolus</i> | Bank vole |
| <i>Pica pica</i> | Magpie |
| <i>Picus viridis</i> | Green woodpecker |
| <i>Talpa europaea</i> | European mole |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | Fox |

Fauna noted in the text but not recorded during the surveys

| Scientific / Proper Name | Common / Trivial Name |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Anguis fragilis</i> | Slow-worm |
| Chiroptera | Bats |
| <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | Hobby |
| <i>Lucanus cervus</i> | Stag Beetle |
| <i>Meles meles</i> | Eurasian Badger |
| <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> | Daubenton's bat |
| <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> | Leisler's bat |
| <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> | Noctule |
| <i>Pipistrellus</i> sp. | Pipistrelle bat |
| <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | Common Pipistrelle |
| <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> | Soprano Pipistrelle |
| <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | Ring-necked Parakeet |
| <i>Triturus cristatus</i> | Great Crested Newt |
| <i>Vipera berus</i> | Adder |
| <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> | Common Lizard |