

File Note

Site Address: The Bungalow Site, New Years Green Lane, Harefield, South Buckinghamshire UB9 6LX

Client Name: London Borough of Hillingdon

Reference: PEA and PRA survey

Date: 28/09/2023

Background

Plowman Craven was instructed by London Borough of Hillingdon to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) at The Bungalow Site, New Years Green Lane, Harefield, South Buckinghamshire UB9 6LX (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of the main building and outbuildings onsite and the erection of a new staff training/ welfare area with associated parking and landscaping (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference TQ 06228 88175 and has an area of approximately 0.59ha comprising dense scrub, tree lined boundaries, scattered trees and developed land which has been colonised by ruderal and grass species. Additionally, there are six buildings, designated as B1-B6 within the site boundary, all of which were surveyed as they will be affected by the proposed development. It is surrounded immediately to the west by the Harefield Household re-use and recycling centre, arable fields to the north, a recycling centre to the east and grassland within the Dog’s Trust to the south. Further afield the site is surrounded by woodland to the north and west, a mosaic of arable and scrub to the north-west and the town of Ruislip to the east.

Further Information

After conducting the site visit on the 27th September 2023, the habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide optimal foraging, commuting, and basking opportunities for reptiles in the form of grassland, scrub, and tall ruderal vegetation (see figure 1 below). These habitats will provide suitable foraging opportunities adjacent to open areas for basking and dense vegetation for refuge. Furthermore, although there are no ponds onsite, the habitats onsite are also assessed to provide suitable terrestrial opportunities for great crested newts in the form of dense tall ruderal vegetation, grassland, dense scrub, and tree lined boundaries which will provide optimal foraging, commuting, and refuge opportunities. Additionally, there are 10 ponds within 500m of the site, of which 8 appear to be suitably connected to the site. The site also has suitable habitat for badgers in the form of grassland, dense scrub, and tall ruderal vegetation which are assessed to provide foraging, commuting and sett building opportunities for badgers. As well, distinct mammal paths running into the dense scrub and a badger scat were observed onsite. The barn onsite, also had barn owl pellets and faeces internally, directly below the trusses. The derelict bungalow onsite had high habitat value for roosting bats due to a number of features, including raised and missing roof tiles, missing verge tiles, gaps around the chimney and broken windows.

In terms of next steps, a full report of the PEA and PRA will be completed in due course, which will include the habitats onsite as well as their suitability for protected species. Furthermore, recommendations will be made for each protected species (bats, GCN, reptiles, badgers, hedgehogs, water voles, otters, dormice and invertebrates) which will include any need for phase two surveys for certain species, particularly reptiles and bats.



Figure 1: the ruderal and grass vegetation around the site



Figure 2: the dense scrub around the boundaries of the site



Figure 3: the derelict bungalow onsite with multiple roosting features