

Angel's Nursery, Barnham

Summary of Surveys

10/08/2016

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Following the granting of permission for application BN/29/13, the development was implemented and ecological mitigation begun. Following a material amendment to the layout of the site a new application is being submitted. The application will be supported by all previous surveys and supplemented by the results of additional surveys that are currently underway (as they fulfil the requirements of BN/29/13).

Summary Ecological Reporting History

- PJC 2009: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Assessment for Bats, Badger Survey
- PJC 2013: Reptile Presence / Absence
- PJC 2013: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Assessment for Bats, Badger Survey
- Batbox 2015: Daytime Bat Survey of Land and Daytime Survey & Dusk Bat Emergence of houses
- D F Clark Bionomique 2015: Ecological Enhancements and Mitigation Plan
- D F Clark Bionomique 2015: Interim Reptile Mitigation Plan

Summary of current ecological activity

- Reptile translocation programme underway
- Update Bat emergence survey of houses complete

Current ground conditions

The site has suffered some disturbance since the August 2013 Extended Phase 1 survey as a result of the archaeological investigations. An initial archaeological evaluation was carried out in August 2014 when 28 trial trenches were mechanically excavated at the site, each 30m by 1.8m. Following this, a further archaeological excavation of two large open areas at the site was undertaken between September and November 2014. This has only just begun its regeneration. The rest of the site can be characterised as unmanaged long grass (Semi-Improved) with areas of scrub and trees with bramble.

Habitats found on site are both common and widespread. Their ecological value is considered to be of 'site level' only.

Protected Species

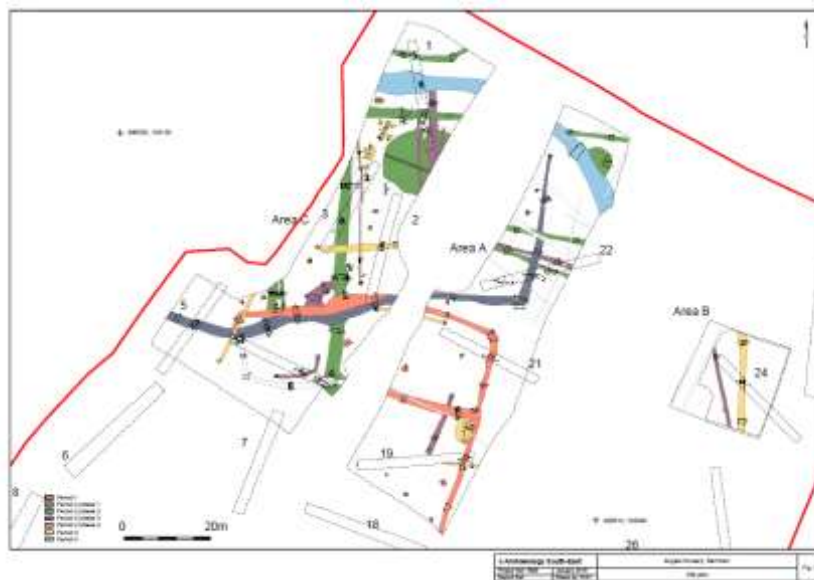
Reptiles: The site held a low population of reptiles. There were 3 species of reptile recorded necessitating a 60 day clearance programme in accordance with best practice guidelines. This is underway and will be completed in Autumn 2017.

Bats: No evidence of bats was found during the 2013 survey however fresh evidence of bat use was discovered during the 2015 survey. No evidence was found that the houses are used by roosting bats at the present time, rather that they are occasionally visited by single bats from roosts in the area, when they enter the building to forage or look for roosting opportunities. A Natural England Bat Mitigation Licence should not be required to demolish the houses at an early date. The early summer 2016 survey found no evidence of bats within the building. Whilst moderate potential clearly exists the building will be subject to a soft strip under appropriate supervision. The Final Bat report is expected in the next 7 days.

Badgers: No badger setts have been recorded.

Birds: there is a reasonable likelihood that birds will be utilising vegetation. Any vegetation that will be affected by construction will either be first checked for breeding birds or removed prior to or after the bird breeding season.

Figure 1, extent of the 2014 open excavations by the consultant archaeologists.



Of the notable species previously encountered or considered at risk of harm bats and reptiles remain of concern.

Reptiles

Following the PJC Ext.P1 surveys in 2009 and 2013 highlighting the reptile potential site edges a presence / absence survey was completed (2013). 3 species were found, common lizard, grass snake and slow worm during the survey period. The population estimate was given as 'low'. The discovery of 3 species qualifies the site as a 'key reptile site' and therefore 60 days trapping is required.

A reptile fence was erected around the site September 2015 (DF Clarke); at the time reptiles were collected from mats and transported to a refuge area although some were still being found at the start of the hibernation season. Only two species were collected, common lizard and slow worm.

The site was investigated by the current ecological consultant and the reptile exclusion fencing was found to have been of very poor standard and had failed in several places. Heat traps have been laid in advance of capturing and the fencing is currently being replaced after which, 60 days of trapping (subject to 5 clear days) will commence. The onsite provision for reptiles is no longer considered suitable for translocation and an offsite receptor site has been identified and is ready to receive the animals.

Bats

The 2016 bat survey has been completed (AWEC). Whilst the results are currently unknown, the report will be submitted with the application.

PJC 2009 noted:

3.12 No signs of bats were found during the internal survey of the house on site. The empty house was not accessible and therefore unable to be surveyed. The outbuildings and glasshouses had negligible potential to support roosting bats.

3.13 The trees on site were surveyed for their potential to support bat species and given a value depending on this. In the north-western boundary a tree was assessed as having medium potential and in the south-western boundary a tree was deemed to have a medium potential for bats. Both of these trees were mature poplars [sic] covered with ivy.

PJC 2013 noted:

3.9 An external assessment of the remaining buildings was undertaken on site. The remaining buildings consisted of two semi-detached cottages. These were assessed externally. No evidence of roosting bats was discovered on the external environment. Some slipped, lifted and broken tiles were present on the roof as well as lead flashing being slightly lifted in places. These features do present potential roosting features for crevice dwelling bat species such as pipistrelles.

3.10 The trees on site were surveyed for their potential to support bat species and given a value depending on this. In the north western area of the site a group of poplar trees are present. These were clad in ivy and considered to have some potential for roosting bats. These trees were classed as having low potential. A further large ivy clad poplar was present in the south western corner of site, this again was classed as having low potential. A dead tree stump was present near the southern boundary within the western half of the site. This tree stump had numerous woodpecker holes and lifted bark and was considered to have medium potential for roosting bats.

Batbox 2015 noted:

A daytime check of trees on the 8.2 acre site was carried out, [...] The majority of the trees on the site do not appear to offer significant bat roosting potential, but a small number of trees are considered to have some potential for bat roosting, and one large dead tree stump offers a high potential. Emergence checks and bat activity surveys of land and trees should be undertaken in spring 2016, prior to building works.

During the daytime survey of the west side house several fresh, medium-sized bat droppings were seen on the ground floor, but no bats or evidence of bat use was seen in the roof void. [...] During the daytime survey of the east side house one bat dropping was found in the living area as well as insect remains dropped by feeding bats. [...].

During the first dusk emergence check/bat detector survey a number of passes from pipistrelles of three distinct species were recorded. It was considered that one bat might have emerged from behind a boarded up window, but during the second dusk survey it was confirmed that the bats

recorded were arriving at the site from roosts elsewhere, probably from the north side of Yapton Road.

No evidence was found that the houses are used by roosting bats at the present time, rather that they are occasionally visited by single bats from roosts in the area, when they enter the building to forage or look for roosting opportunities.

Other Species

Birds are likely to be foraging and breeding therefore clearance works will be undertaken outside the bird breeding season.

No badger setts are present however clearance will be undertaken in the presence of an ecologist in the event that there has been any recent occupation of the site.

The site is not considered suitable for amphibians.