

# JPC ECOLOGY



## 21 & 23 Ormond Crescent: Ecological Report

A report for Banner Homes  
September 2011

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

JPC Ecology have undertaken this ecological appraisal of the house and gardens at 21 and 23 Ormond Road, Hampton (grid reference: TQ 141 700).

The site currently consists of a single residential dwelling, with gardens to the front and rear of the property.

The ecological survey will form part of the planning package to be submitted to London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Within the report the following is considered:

- Methodology
- Desk top study
- Site survey information
- Conclusions and recommendations

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

In order to establish the baseline ecological conditions on site, a combination of desk-based research and a habitat survey of the site were undertaken in August 2011.

### 2.1 Desk Study

The search used the National Biodiversity Network Gateway to search for records of species. It also made use of aerial photography and information from the local biodiversity action plan. The purpose of the desktop search is to determine if there are any records or issues within the vicinity of the site that need further consideration in the field study.

### 2.2 Field Survey

#### 2.2.1 General survey

The field survey was undertaken on a site visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011 by an experienced ecologist, Jim Phillips, BSc (Hons), MA, MIEEM.

The survey incorporated detailed assessment of the land within the development boundary, including a description and mapping of all key features and habitat types<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was based on the standard Phase 1 Habitat survey technique (JNCC 1990) as amended by the Institute of Environmental assessment (1995). All habitat types within the area were characterised and mapped.

The survey was carried out to identify the range of habitats within the site and the predominant and notable species of flora. A detailed phase 2 survey was not undertaken.

### **2.2.2 Protected species**

The survey also incorporated a search for any evidence of protected species such as badgers, bats, birds and reptiles, as follows:

#### ***Badgers***

The survey for badgers included a search of the development site for any evidence of badger setts.

#### **Bats**

##### *Site Walkover survey*

The field survey was based on best practice guidelines issued by Natural England and the Bat Conservation Trust. The survey included a site walk over of the site to establish any suitable habitats or features for bats. The main dwelling on site was surveyed internally and externally to check for bats or evidence of use by bats.

The internal search focused on the loft voids with particular attention paid to the roof beams, gable-ends and any cavities in the walls. A detailed search was made for bat droppings on the floors, walls and around any cavities. In addition, other signs were also searched for, which included feeding signs, staining on beams or around crevices, scratch marks and areas that were conspicuously cobweb-free.

Exterior checks of the building were also undertaken in order to search for signs of any use by bats and to ascertain potential access points.

The outbuildings on site were also inspected internally and externally for any signs or evidence of bats.

The purpose of the visual inspection was to determine the likelihood of bats and to establish the need for further emergent/re-entry surveys.

#### ***Reptiles***

The survey for reptiles included an assessment of the suitability of the habitat for reptiles, and an assessment of the need to carry out further survey work.

#### ***Birds***

The survey included an assessment of the suitability of the site for breeding birds. It did not include a detailed species survey.

## Great Crested Newts

The survey for great crested newts included an assessment of the suitability of the habitat, and an assessment of the need to carry out further survey work.

### 2.3 Constraints

The survey was carried out at an optimal time of year, as such there are no constraints on the survey.

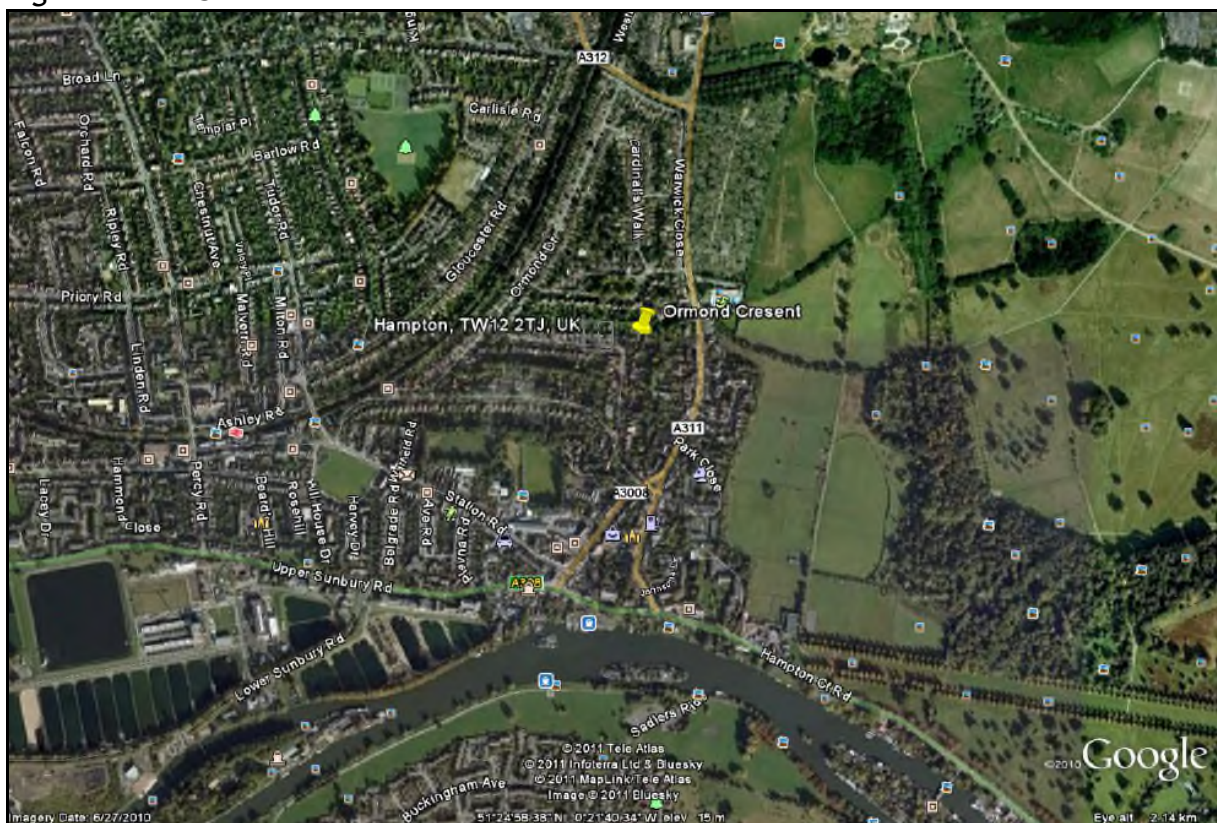
### 3.0 DESK TOP STUDY

The results of the desktop survey are summarised below, and include:

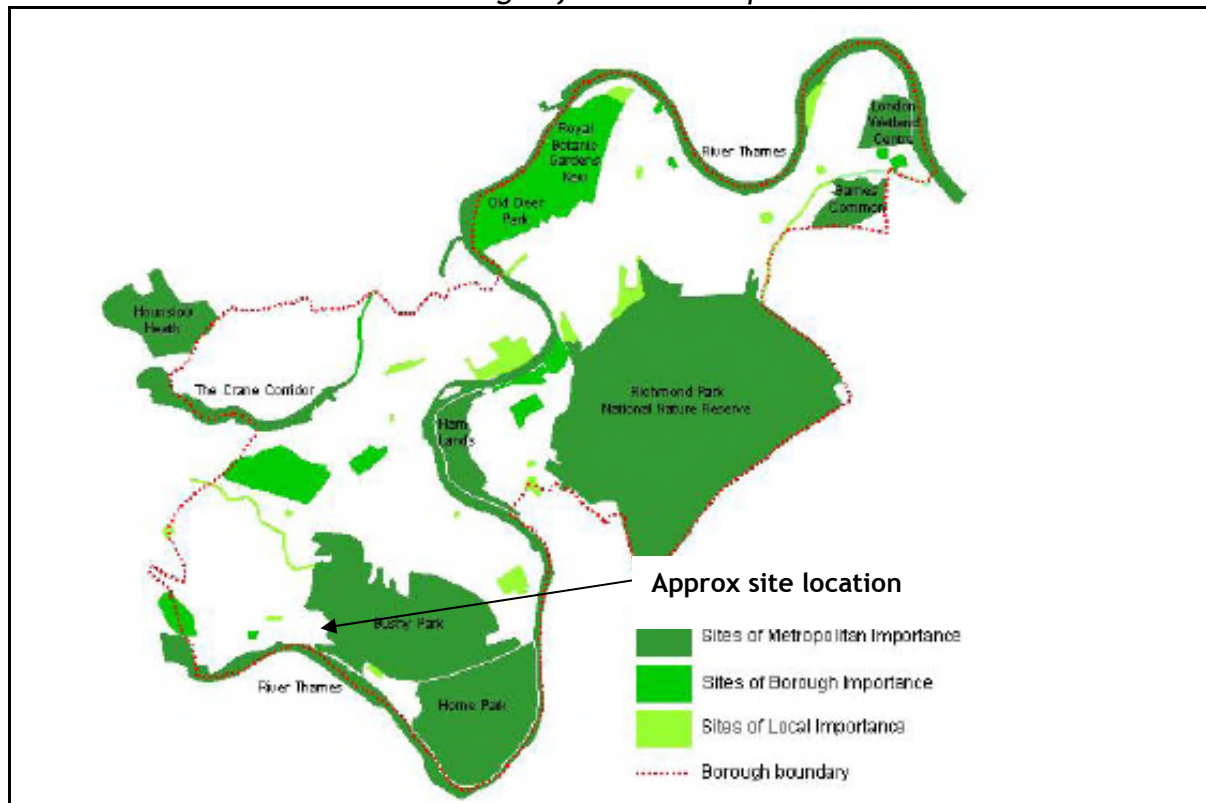
- An assessment of the surrounding land and sites.
- Species search from the NBN gateway.

### 3.1 Surrounding land and sites

Figure 1 Site location



*Figure 2 Sites of Metropolitan, Borough and Local Importance for Nature Conservation in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames*



*(taken from Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan)*

Figures 1 and 2 show that the site is within close proximity of Bushy Park (100 metres from the site), and the River Thames (600 metres from the site), which are both Sites of Metropolitan Importance to Nature Conservation.

Of most relevance to the site is Bushy Park, managed by Royal parks consisting of a large open space of acid & wet grassland, a pond / lake, secondary woodland, veteran trees and wet ditches. The grassland supports nationally scarce plant species.

Although the development site is only 100 metres from the edge of Bushy Park, there are a number of other gardens and properties and the High Street between the site and the park.

### 3.3 Species

As the NBN gateway returns records over a 10KM grid reference, as expected many hundreds of records are returned, the key is to use this information to determine if any species may be affected by the development of the site. All records were scanned to see if any particular species warranted further consideration. Considering the nature of the site, it was felt that checks should be made for records of bats and reptiles specifically.

### 3.3.1 Bats

The following bat records have been returned for the search area:

<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat
<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle Bat species
<i>Plecotus Auritus</i>	Long-eared Bat species
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered Bat
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Lesser Noctule

### 3.3.2 Reptiles

The following reptile records have been returned for the search area:

<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow-worm
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Adder
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass Snake
<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Common Lizard

### 3.3.3 Summary of desktop search

Clearly, the area has a rich diversity of wildlife, not unexpected considering the location of places such as Bushy Park within the search area. The records indicate that it is important to consider protected species within the field survey and information on this is provided in the following section.

## 4.0 SITE SURVEY INFORMATION

### 4.1 Habitat survey of site

The results of the field survey have added further detail and clarification to the desk study, particularly focusing on the range of habitats and potential for protected species within the site boundary. The field survey was carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011.

Whilst the survey was informed by the standard approach to extended phase 1 habitat surveys, the nature of the site warranted a more bespoke approach to reflect the size and detail of the site. Figure 3 shows the type and range of habitats and features within the development boundary.

Figure 3 Habitats and features within the site boundary



The following section describes the key habitats and features within the site.



#### 4.1.1 Number 21 Ormond Crescent

##### *Buildings (no.21)*



*Rear view of main house*



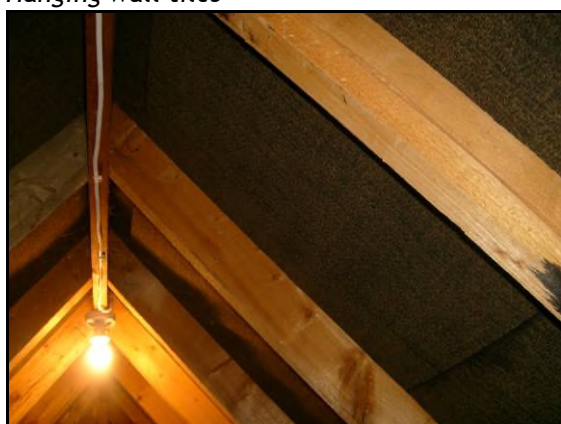
*Front view of main house*



*Hanging wall tiles*



*Roof tiles*



*Internal loft space*



*Garage*

The main house is of brick construction, with external hanging wall tiles on the upper floor of the house. These wall tiles can offer roosting opportunities for bats, and at least two hours were spent carefully inspecting the tiles using ladders and assisted by binoculars. The search focused on any tiles which have gaps, and observations were made for any evidence of droppings. The search also looked on the floor and window sills below the wall tiles. This through search found no evidence of bats.

The roof tiles on the house are clay, and although in good condition, do present some small gaps which could be suitable for bats. Again, considerable time was spent looking for obvious gaps and any evidence of bats - no evidence was found.

The gables and soffits are all in good condition, and here are no obvious gaps or features suitable for bats.

The internal building inspection focused on the loft void. About 70% of this space is now converted as living space, leaving 2 small loft voids. One void is boarded and lit, with a felt lined roof. The other void is also lit and the roof is wood lined. No gaps or evidence of bats was apparent.

The garage, which is separate from the house is built of brick, with a tile roof and open void internally - there were no features or evidence of use by bats.

In summary, the buildings survey at number 23 found no evidence of bats using the buildings. The hanging wall tiles on the main house offer some potential for bats, however, a thorough search found no evidence of bats.

### **Gardens (no. 21)**



*Front drive*



*Rear garden*



*Shrubs and borders*



*Paved feature*

The front of the house is largely laid as hard surface, with a Yew hedge at one boundary and a pyracantha hedge at the other. There is a mature oak tree on the

edge of the front boundary, which has both aesthetic and biodiversity value (target note 1). Due to its age and structure, it is possible that it could provide roosting opportunities for bats, although there were no obvious holes or cracks observed.

The rear gardens are largely laid to close mown lawn, with formal garden shrubs and tree species around the borders - species include yew, holly, rhododendron, cherry, leylandii, field maple, rowan, laurel, hebes, and an area of beech hedge. There are two mature lime trees which overhang the garden, but are outside of the site boundary. There are a number of small scattered trees within the lawn area, including twisted hazel and silver birch. The lawn also has a patio area immediately adjacent to the house, which leads to a circular paved in area within the lawn.

Overall, the gardens are of low biodiversity value, with the main features being the shrub borders and trees in the rear garden which offers some value for birds, and the large mature oak tree in the front of the house which is of aesthetic and biodiversity value.

#### 4.1.2 Number 23 Ormond Crescent

##### *Buildings (no.23)*



*Rear view of main house*



*Front view of main house*



*Hanging wall tiles*



*Roof tiles*



Internal loft space



Garage

The main house is of brick construction, the upper floor is rendered, and the ground floor brick. The roof is slate and in good condition, The soffits are in good condition. There are no features which offer potential for bats. The internal inspection focused on the loft void, which is partially boarded, the roof itself is lined with felt and wood. There was no evidence of use by bats.

The garage is built brick, with rendered walls and a sloping roof, the internal and external inspection identified no suitable features for bats.

**Gardens (no. 21)**



Front garden



Rear garden



Rear garden



Garden/garage in rear garden

The front garden has a small patch of lawn, and a gravel drive. The rear gardens are almost entirely laid to close mown lawn. There is a small group of leylandii and young sycamore in the north east corner. The boundaries are mainly fence, with a partial leylandii hedge in the south west corner. In the south east corner there is a small group of leylandii, laurel, privet and lilac. The gardens offer very little biodiversity interest.

## 4.3 Protected Species

### 4.3.1 Bats

The buildings surveys identified no evidence of bats using any of the buildings. The habitat within the development site is of low value for bats. The wider environment does have potential for bats, particularly the large area of parkland at Bushy Park to the east of the site.

The main house at number 21 has some external features (hanging wall tiles), which have potential for bats, although a thorough search identified no evidence. The large oak tree at the front of number 21 also has potential for bats.

The buildings and gardens at number 23 offer very low potential for bats.

In light of these findings, it is recommended that no acoustic surveys are warranted on the site, however, it is recommended that the hanging wall tiles on the main house at number 21 are subject to 'soft stripping', if the property is demolished (see section 5).

### 4.3.2 Badgers

The survey identified no evidence of badger setts or activity within the site.

### 4.3.3 Reptiles

The site has no habitat which has value for reptiles. It is not felt that the nature of the habitat warrants further survey work to determine existence.

### 4.3.4 Breeding Birds

The shrubs and trees at the boundaries of the site at number 21 offer habitat potential for breeding birds. It is not felt that the habitat is extensive enough to warrant a breeding bird survey, but it is recommended that any clearance works to these areas are made outside of the bird breeding season (March - August inclusive).

### 4.3.5 Great Crested Newts

The habitat is of low value for great crested newts.

## 4.4 Summary of field survey

The field survey has identified that overall, the site has low biodiversity interest.

There is no evidence of use by protected species, and limited habitats for amphibians, reptiles and breeding birds.

There are no features within the site that would preclude the site from being developed.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The site offers little value in the way of biodiversity. Some of the trees and shrubs at the boundary of number 21 offer some landscape and biodiversity value, and should be retained or replaced where feasible. The large oak at the front of number 21 is a significant specimen and should be retained.
2. The hanging wall tiles on the main house of number 21 have some potential for bats. Whilst no evidence of bats was found, bats can use these features in a very transient way, and as such it is recommended that the tiles are 'soft stripped' by hand under the supervision of an ecologist when the building is planned for demolition.
2. No further survey work for protected species is required in relation to the development site.
3. Any works to the trees, shrubs and boundaries should take place outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive). If this is not feasible, a breeding bird survey should be carried out immediately prior to works commencing.
4. There is an opportunity for some biodiversity enhancement to be included within the development proposals for the site, this could include:
  - the removal of dominant hedge species such as laurel, and replanting with mixed native species, additional native planting could be made, particularly around the boundaries of number 23;
  - Installation of 4 bird boxes and 2 bat boxes, to be located in suitable retained trees on the site;
  - Creation of an open compost area in one or more of the corners of the new plots, to encourage home composting and provide potential habitat for wildlife;
  - Creation of at least one small log pile in the retained boundary area to provide a potential habitat for wildlife.