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## ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LATCHMERE TEMPORARY MARKETING SUITE

Dear Alistair

We have reviewed the final agreed plans for the temporary marketing suite at Latchmere House, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey, (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ 184 172) and we are pleased to see that our suggestions have been incorporated. Our assessment is outlined below.

**Ham Common Local Nature Reserve** The proposed temporary marketing suite is located within the Ham Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The LNR is noted for its areas of acid grassland and birch and oak woodland and for its dead wood habitat supporting invertebrates, fungi and cavity nesting birds.

The marketing suite and associated car parking have been cited to avoid impact on mature trees and this is detailed in the Arboricultural note which supports this application.

The area to be affected was surveyed during the extended phase 1 habitat survey (RSK, 2012) and found to comprise *“an area of open canopy ornamental trees with a field-layer of semi improved grassland. The 18 m high tree species present include Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse-chestnut), Ilex aquifolium (Holly), Quercus robur (Pedunculate Oak), Tilia xeuropaea (Lime) and Tilia platyphyllos (Large-leaved Lime). The field-layer is dominated by the grass Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire-fog) with frequent Agrostis capillaris (Common Bent) and remains un-mown with a sward height of approximately 15 cm. Amongst the grasses are herb species typical of semi improved grasslands and woodlands including Cerastium fontanum (Common Mouse-ear), Geum urbanum (Wood Avens) and Taraxacum agg. (Dandelion).*

The area is shown on the attached phase 1 habitat map as *Target Note 2* (this figure is taken from the original phase 1 habitat report submitted with the planning application for the main site). It was not



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highlighted as having potential for protected species other than nesting birds and roosting bats (associated with mature trees) during the original survey in 2012. Victoria Gilbey a Principal Ecologist at RSK (CEnv, MCIEEM) visited site on 7 March 2015 to confirm these findings due to the length of time that has passed. A nesting bird check was carried out at the same time to allow removal of two trees (agreed as part of the main site's planning application).

In order to protect the LNR and ensure that all temporary ecological impacts associated with the marketing suite are mitigated the following measures will be implemented during construction (currently assumed to start in May 2016) and reinstatement:

1. The access, parking and footpath will be formed using a cellular confinement system to ensure that there is no removal of topsoil within root protection areas (RPA's) of retained trees.
2. Temporary ground protection will be used during installation to avoid tracking over soft ground within the RPAs.
3. Drainage and service routes will be above ground level or located outside of the RPA's.
4. Foundations for the marketing suite will be designed to minimise impact to the LNR i.e. above ground piers/smallest footprint.
5. Topsoil stripped from the LNR (marketing suite area only) will be stored separately in a demarcated area (with signage) and covered to prevent erosion and weed infestation. If it is not possible to cover the stockpiles they will be seeded with a grass/clover mix. Topsoil will not be handled when wet and it will not be stored in stockpiles higher than 3-4 metres.
6. The Marketing Suite will need to be raised above ground level to allow gaseous exchange and moisture to the soft ground within the area below the suite.
7. Any topsoil removed from the LNR will be reinstated when the suite is removed (currently assumed to be end of 2018) and seeded with an appropriate grassland mix which matches the species composition recorded during the phase 1 habitat survey.

With these measures in place the impact on the LNR will be minimal and of a temporary nature only.

### **Lighting**

A European Protected Species licence was granted by Natural England on 27 October 2015 (reference: 2015-15368-EPS-MIT) to allow the removal of two bat roosts within buildings on the main site. As part of the licence application bat boxes were erected in selected mature trees on site to provide compensatory roosts. This includes six boxes on four trees in close proximity to the temporary marketing suite.

In addition a bat mitigation report was produced by RSK in August 2015 (and subsequently updated in October 2015) to detail the strategy for inspecting trees with bat roost potential (BRP) and for protecting key bat foraging and commuting routes through habitat retention and sensitive lighting design.

Research has shown (*Bat Conservation Trust. Artificial lighting and Wildlife Interim Guidance*) that lighting in close proximity to bat roost exit points can delay bats from emerging which impacts on feeding success and increases the risk of bats abandoning roosts.

We have reviewed the proposed lighting plan and reduced lighting where possible including eliminating lighting in an area directly adjacent to one of the four trees with compensatory bat boxes (tree reference T42). We are not required to monitor these boxes to check for the presence of roosting bats (i.e. as a condition of the granted EPS licence) therefore this approach is precautionary but will also aid future colonisation of the bat boxes during the period of time that the marketing suite is in use.

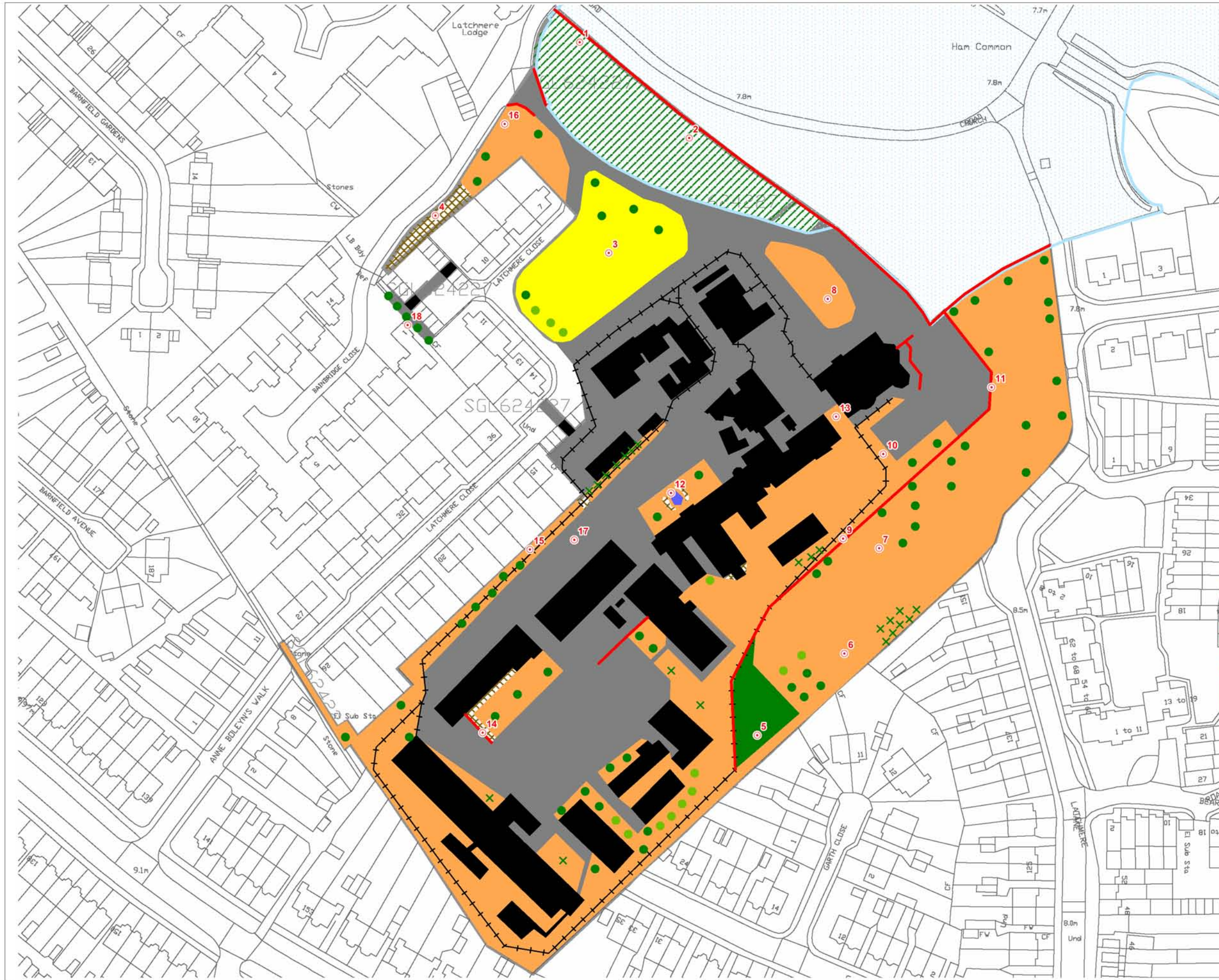
We are content that the current lighting plan minimises any potential for negative impacts to roosting, foraging and commuting bats. There is an existing level of street lighting in this area and all measures have been taken to minimise any cumulative impact associated with lighting of the proposed temporary marking suite.

If you have any questions regarding this assessment then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07825 328158 or email [vgilbey@rsk.co.uk](mailto:vgilbey@rsk.co.uk)

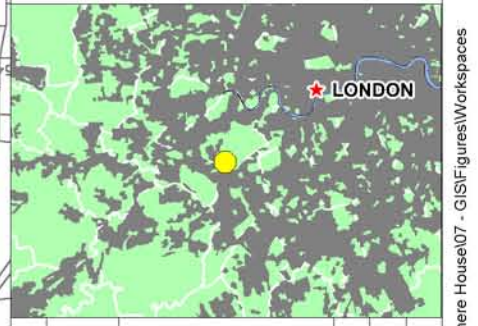
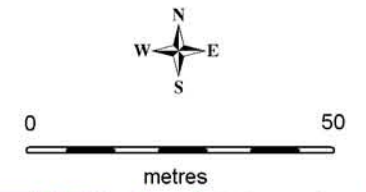
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Gilbey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Victoria Gilbey  
Principal Ecologist



- Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland
- Broad-leaved plantation woodland
- Scattered scrub
- Scattered broad-leaved tree
- Scattered coniferous tree
- Unimproved neutral grassland
- Standing water
- Amenity grassland
- Introduced / planted shrub
- Fence
- Wall
- Hard Standing
- Building
- Ham Common Local Nature Reserve
- Botanical target note



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	23.08.12	Phase 1	SP	RG	VG



Figure 2  
Botanical Phase 1  
SCALE: 1:1,250 @ A3  
REV 00

Plan provided by client

FILE NAME: T:\Projects\Projects 854481 - Latchmere House\07 - GIS\Figures\Workspaces