The Ecology Consultancy

King's House School, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Addendum to Preliminary Roost Assessment

Client: Land Use Consultants

Job number: T6874

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BACKGROUND

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by Land Use Consultants to undertake an update Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) to assess the presence or likely absence of bats within buildings at the King's House School, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. The site is approximately 0.4 hectares (ha) in size and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid reference TQ 1871 7475. This assessment follows on from a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Ground Level Tree Assessment carried out by The Ecology Consultancy in December 2018, and updated in December 2020, which identified buildings and trees with bat roosting potential (The Ecology Consultancy, 2021a, 2021b). A previous update PRA of the site was also conducted by The Ecology Consultancy in December 2020 (The Ecology Consultancy 2020). The site was revisited on the 4 January 2022 to establish if there had been any significant changes to site since the previous survey and to establish whether there were any new ecological constraints to the proposed development

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

A number of the existing school buildings, including the existing music block, gym, PE store, side extension and garage will be demolished in order to create a central quad area and facilitate construction of the new teaching block. The new classroom block is due to be built in the south of the site resulting in the removal of two trees, (T20 and G2.1), as well as areas of scrub, introduced shrub and amenity garden (David Miller Architects, 2020). Proposed new landscaping includes areas of biodiverse green roofs and climbing plants. As a part of the proposed landscaping new

shrub and tree planting will be included along the southern and western boundary as well as a biodiverse roof on sections of the new building,

METHODOLOGY

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The site visit was conducted on 04 January 2022 by Ecologist John Myerscough and surveyed following best practice guidelines (Mitchell-Jones & McLeish, 2004; Collins, 2016, The British Standards Institution, 2015). The survey comprised an external inspection of each building, involving a detailed search of all accessible architectural features for bat droppings, urine staining, scratch marks, staining around suitable crevices and feeding remains. Window panes and other external surfaces were visually checked for droppings or other secondary evidence. A high-powered torch was used to illuminate recesses and crevices at height and these were inspected using close focusing binoculars. This included external features, such as soffit boxes, roof tiles, hanging tiles, ridge areas and window casements. Any features that could potentially provide access into internal areas such as roof voids and cavity walls were noted. The survey was carried out in suitable weather conditions: clear, dry, and light breeze, 6°C. The update PRA survey focussed on the development footprint as per the Habitat Map shown in the original PRA report (Appendix 1, Figure 1).

RESULTS

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The survey found all buildings and habitats within the redline boundary to be largely as described in the original report and the results of the original Preliminary Roost Assessment report were still considered accurate (The Ecology Consultancy, 2020). The site remained in active use as a school and all of the buildings on site were occupied at the time of survey. No bats or evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the PRA of the buildings on site.

Building B1 (Sections B1.1, B1.2, B1.4, B1.6 and B1.7) were assessed as having moderate potential to support roosting bats in the summer and low potential to support hibernating bats.

Building B2, B3 and Sections B1.3 and B1.8 of Building B1 were assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats.

Building B1 Sections B1.4, B1.6 and B1.7 which will be impacted by the works were subject to dusk emergence and dawn re-entry surveys in 2019 which found no evidence of roosting bats.

The 2019 surveys also recorded a low amount of bat activity across the site and it was considered unlikely bats were dependant on the habitats on site due to the abundance of higher quality foraging / commuting habitats in the locality. Therefore, the site was assessed as having importance at site level for bats (The Ecology Consultancy, 2020).

The results of the update Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) carried out in December 2020 were still considered accurate, and five trees on site were assessed as providing low potential to support roosting bats (The Ecology Consultancy, 2021b).

FURTHER SURVEYS

As the bat presence / likely absence surveys were carried out in 2019 update emergence/re-entry surveys of Building B1.4, B1.6, and B1.7, which were assessed as having moderate potential to support roosting bats, should be carried out between May and August 2022, prior to any works commencing on site, to assess the current status of roosting bats across the site.

References

British Standards Institution (2015) *BS8956 Surveying for Bats in Trees and Woodland.* BSI London.

Collins. (2016) *Bat Surveys - Good Practice Guidelines* 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

David Miller Associates (2020) New Application – Pre-application Advice 01: Kings House School. Doc No: KHS-DMA-XX-XX-RP-A-0010102152.

LUC London (2020) *Kings House School*: *Landscape Sketch Proposal*. Drawing number: LD-PLN-061120

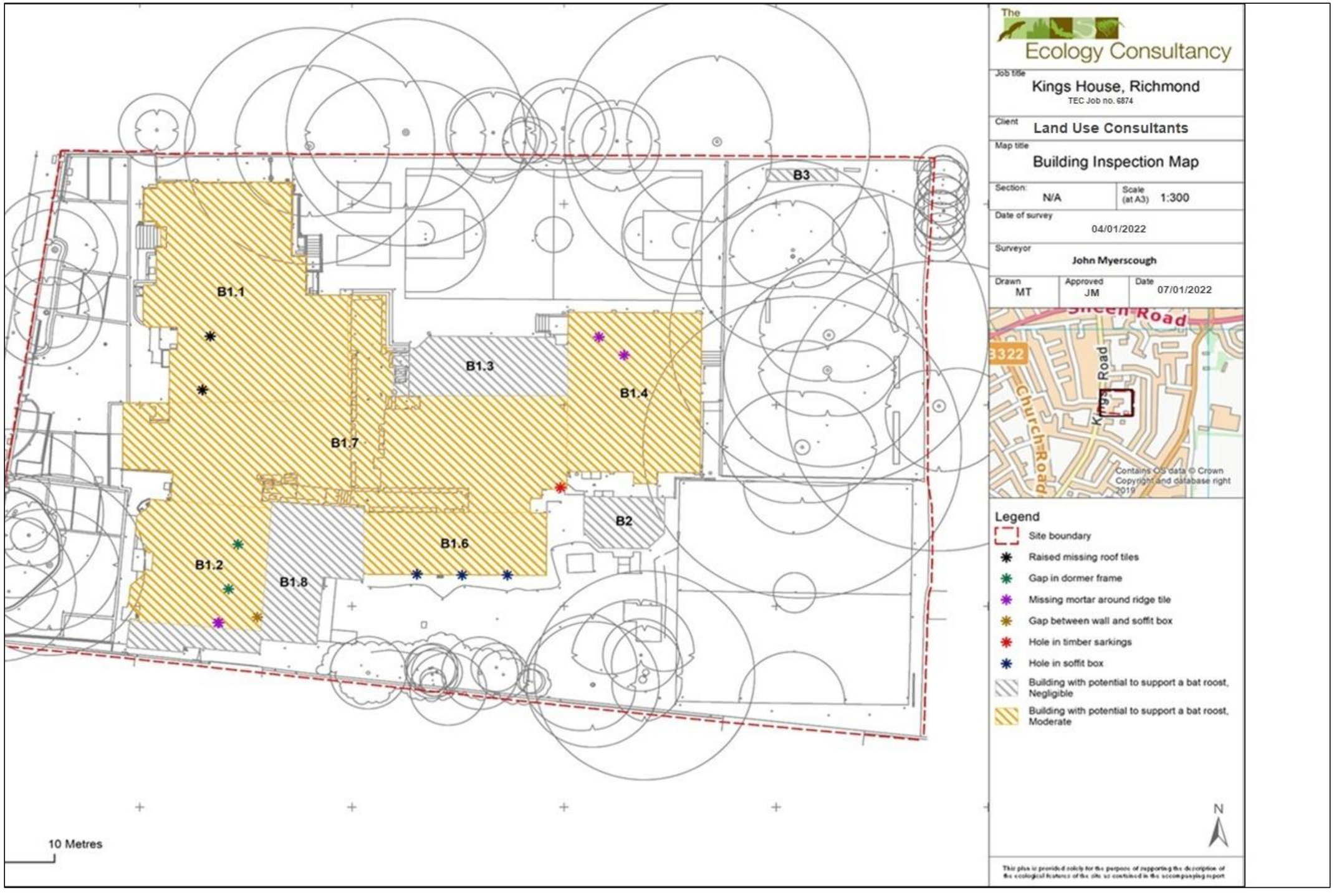
The Ecology Consultancy (2021a) Ref: 7514.6 *King's House School, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal:* Report for Land Use Consultants

The Ecology Consultancy (2021b) Ref: 7514.6 *King's House School, Ground Level Tree Assessment:* Report for Land Use Consultants

The Ecology Consultancy (2020) Ref: 7514.6 *King's House School, Preliminary Roost Assessment:* Report for Land Use Consultants

Appendix 1: Habitat Map

Figure 1: PRA Survey Map



Appendix 2: Photographs

Photograph 1
Building 1: sections B1.1, B1.3 and B1.4 north elevation.

Photograph 2
Building 1: Section B1.6 Southern and eastern elevation.

Photograph 3
Building 2 southern elevation And Building 1 section B1.4 southern elevation

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Photograph 4
Southern elevation of B1.2 and B1.8.

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