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## HAM CLOSE - ECOLOGY RESPONSE TO OBJECTION LETTERS

### 21/09/22

#### CONTEXT

The following note has been prepared in response to objection letters received in relation to the proposed Ham Close development. Specifically, it is understood these letters are in relation to concerns around the potential for a group of trees along the western side of the site currently in the Woodville centre to support bats.

#### RESPONSE

##### 2021 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

As is set out in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared for the site, an initial assessment bat scoping assessment was undertaken in September 2021. During that survey an assessment of the trees within the grounds of the Woodville centre was made from the boundary of the Ham Close Estate. No potential roosting features were identified during this assessment and no further survey was considered to be required for these trees.

##### 2022 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Further to the above survey, an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken in May 2022 where access was provided to the grounds of the Woodville Centre. A close-up inspection was therefore undertaken which reconfirmed the findings of the 2021 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal with no potential roosting features identified and no further surveys required.

Photos from the 2022 survey are provided in Appendix A.

##### 2021 Bat Survey Data

Given no roosting potential was identified, no specific additional surveys were undertaken for the trees within the grounds of the Woodville Centre. However, during an emergence survey completed on the adjacent Newman House (see Figure 1 below for location) on September 23/09/2021 predominately common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), and occasionally soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), were recorded intermittently foraging around the trees from 19.34 to 20.06.

The Ecological Impact Assessment completed as a part of the Environmental Statement for the development acknowledges that there will be a short-term significant negative effect for foraging bats using the site whilst the proposed landscaping mature trees which reduces to negligible.

Landscaping proposals for the development include the incorporation of biodiverse green roofs, pollinator friendly planting and compensatory tree planting, all of which will provide an invertebrate prey source for bats. Further to this it has also been recommended that the final lighting strategy (secured by condition) is sensitive to bats and follow the principles below:

- Low-UV warm-white LED Bulbs;
- Directional, downward facing and shielded lights;
- Lighting which points away from green features such as trees or areas of landscaping; and
- Lighting subject to curfew controls and movement sensors where possible.

Figure 1 - Bat activity around trees in Woodville Centre (Basemap source: Google)



In conclusion, the trees within the Woodville Centre grounds have been assessed for their bat value. Whilst they do not support roosting bats, it has previously been acknowledged these trees are of value for foraging bats. Landscaping proposals will compensate for the tree/vegetation loss removal and temporary loss of foraging resource.

## APPENDIX A PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 - View of trees (silver birch) in grounds of Woodville Centre with existing Ham Close Estate beyond



Photograph 2 - View of pine tree within Woodville Centre grounds



