LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Dan Gardner
Savills
Wessex House
Priors Walk
East Borough
Wimborne
BH21 1PB
Dan.a.gardner@savills.com

6th December 2022

RE: Ecological Appraisal of Knook Camp, Camp Road, Warminster, BA12 0JB.

Dear Dan,

Thank you for appointing LC Ecological Services to conduct an ecological appraisal of Knook Camp, Camp Road, Warminster, BA12 0JB. A summary of the methodology, results and recommendations for further survey works are provided within this letter report.

Proposed plans

Two prefabricated structures are to be erected within the survey area outlined by Savills, in the form of a tent to be utilised as a teaching room, and a temporary gymnasium. The gymnasium will be erected on hard standing in the northern section of the site boundary, and the tent to be placed in the western area of the survey boundary.

Methodology

The standard phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2016) was adopted whereby habitats are mapped using colour codes (appendix III). A detailed walkover survey was undertaken by assistant ecologist Rob McCalman on the 29th November 2022, directly searching for legally protected and invasive species of plant and categorising any habitats of ecological value that were encountered. A general description of the vegetation was also noted, listing species encountered and scoring their abundance using the DAFOR scale:

D Dominant
A Abundant
F Frequent
O Occasional
R Rare
L Local (used as a prefix to any of the above)

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Limitations

The phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken in November outside of the optimum survey period for botanical surveys. The survey however was considered sufficient to determine habitat types and where required further surveys will be recommended.

Results

Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Ecological Appraisal

Habitats

Semi-improved grassland comprised nearly the entirety of the survey site, with an area of bare ground located in the northern area of the redline boundary. The grassland extends for an area of approximately 160 by 110 square metres, and is bordered on its southern, eastern, and western perimeters by chain-link fencing. The semi-improved grassland was regularly maintained, and previously managed as amenity grassland as a sports pitch, and comprised dominant Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Other frequent species recorded within the semi-improved grassland included two plantain species, ribwort (*Plantago lanceolata*) and hoary (*Plantago media*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris)*.

A hedgerow is present in the northern portion of the survey area, bordering hardstanding. Species present within the hedgerow include elder (*Sambucus nigra*), and bog blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*). Herbaceous plants recorded beneath the hedgerow include sow-thistle (*Sonchus sp*), lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*), and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

Eight juvenile oak trees (*Quercus robur*) were planted, running in a straight line to the west of the hedgerow, and will be retained on site.

Two mature cherry (*Prunus avium*) trees were present to the south of the hedgerow. A full species list for the above habitats are provided in appendix II.

Recommendations

Due to the limited use of industrial equipment, there is no considerable risk to the hedgerow and trees on site, however it is recommended that due diligence is implemented to ensure works do not impact the hedgerow, trees and their surroundings. If large scale equipment is required to facilitate works, it is advised that tree fencing (to the appropriate BSI standard) is used to protect the trees and their root systems from vehicles and mechanical damage.

No trees will be removed to facilitate works, however if this changes, an assessment of the trees for potential roosting features suitable for bats may be required. In the event of any trees being impacted significantly or removed, then they will need to be replaced within the site during the construction process. None of the aforementioned trees, or habitats are due to be removed to facilitate works. As such, a

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

negligible ecological disturbance will be created by footfall and light machinery.

An area of semi-improved grassland will be lost temporarily, whilst the prefabricated tent is in place. It is recommended that a variety of native plant species that constitute semi-improved grassland, are planted within the perimeter fencing of the camp, to mitigate for this temporary loss of habitat. Once the temporary units have fulfilled their purpose, the ground will be restored back to semi-improved grassland.

Protected and notable species

Badgers

A thorough check of the works area and surrounding habitat was conducted, with no indications or evidence of badger activity noted. No suitable habitat for badgers was recorded, and the presence of badgers within the works area is therefore highly unlikely, as such there will be no impact to badgers from these works.

Bats

Some of the buildings within the wider Knook camp area, could potentially be utilised by roosting bats, these are however a significant distance from the works area, and will not be impacted by the proposed works. There is a lack of suitable foraging habitat for bats present, with a single treeline running north to south along the eastern perimeter of the site being of low foraging potential. More suitable foraging and roosting habitat is located approximately 450 metres to the west of the site, in broadleaved woodland. A single European Protected Species licence for bats was granted within a two-kilometre radius of the site, being located approximately 1.75 kilometres north of the site area. Given these findings, there will be no adverse impacts to bat species by these works.

Birds

The site lies approximately 2.4 kilometres to the south of Salisbury Plain Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This SSSI is of significant importance to nesting and foraging birds. The site area is a considerable distance from this designated site, and provides little to no value in foraging and/or nesting habitat for bird species. With the retention of all habitats and tree species currently present on site, there will be no adverse impact to bird species.

Great crested newt

There are no standing water bodies within a 500-metre radius of the site. Barriers in the form of the roads the A27 and B390, border the site area on its northern and western boundaries. There are no instances of European Protected Species licences for great crested newt within a two kilometres radius of the site. Given this information, it is highly unlikely that great crested newt are present in or around the site boundary, and as such, will not be impacted.

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Hazel dormouse

The hedgerow was assessed for its potential to support the hazel dormouse, and was assessed as providing negligible foraging and nesting habitat, due to its isolation from surrounding suitable habitat. In addition, the hedgerow provided a limited food source to support an isolated population. As such there will be no adverse impacts to the hazel dormouse.

Reptiles

A single woodpile was recorded whilst undertaking the survey, located adjacent to the perimeter fencing to the east of the easternmost side of the survey area. This feature could be used as hibernacula for reptile species. It is currently outside of the red line boundary, however if this feature were to be affected during proposed works, it is recommended a destructive search to be undertaken of these wood piles, under an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) supervision. This would involve works commencing outside of the hibernation period with dismantling occurring during the active season which is considered to extend from March to October. In the event reptiles are encountered a suitable hibernaculum will be constructed and any reptiles encountered relocated to suitable retained habitat within the Camp.

The above recommendations are given in relation to field surveys carried out on 29.11.2022, and according to sketches and images provided by Savills.

Kind regards,

Rob McCalman BSc MSc (Hons)
Assistant Ecologist

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Appendix I

Site Images – Knook Camp



Figure 1: View of survey area



Figure 2: Survey area, showing bare ground.



Figure 3: Bare ground created by vehicles.



Figure 4: Hardstanding area.



Figure 5: Western portion of hedgerow.



Figure 6: Eastern portion of hedgerow.

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk



Figure 7: Bare ground patch in front of western hedgerow.



Figure 8: Bare ground behind western hedgerow, adjacent to hardstanding.



Figure 10: Wild cherry tree (Prunus avium), in front of hedgerow.



Figure 11: Wild cherry tree (Prunus avium) in front of western end of western hedgerow.

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Appendix II

Species lists for Knook Camp

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Status
Trees			
Norway maple	*Acer platanoides*	R	Common & widespread
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*	R	Frequent - locally common in woodlands, hedgebanks & better soils
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	R	Common on nutrient-enriched soils
Bog blueberry	*Vaccinium uliginosum*	R	Grows on wet acidic soils on heathland, moorland.
Common elm	*Ulmus procera*	R	Full-sized trees are rare, found in hedgerows, parks & riverside woods
Oak	*Quercus robur*	O	Common & widespread, except on very poor soils
Herbaceous plants			
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	O	Common on roadsides, hedge banks & woodland borders
Daisy	*Bellis perennis*	O	Common & widespread
Spear thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	R	Common & widespread
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	D	Common & widespread
Lady's bedstraw	*Gallium verum*	F	Common in grasslands, hedgebanks & dunes
Herb-Robert	*Geranium robertianum*	O	Common & widespread
Ivy	*Hedera helix*	F	Common & widespread
Yorkshire-fog	*Holcus lanatus*	D	Common & widespread
Bristly oxtongue	*Helminthotheca echiodes*	R	Common on clay or chalk soils
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	R	Common & widespread
Ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*	O	
Oxeye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	R	Common in grasslands, meadows & roadsides on fertile soil
Hawkweed oxtongue	*Picris hieracioides*	R	Common on calcareous soils
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	O	Common & widespread

LC Ecological Services

The Old Squash Court, Rempstone Hall
Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Wareham
Dorset BH20 5JQ

t: +44 (0) 1929 477115
e: enquiries@ecological-services.co.uk
w: www.ecological-services.co.uk

Hoary plantain	*Plantago media*	O	Locally common on calcareous grassland
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	A	Common & widespread
Curly dock	*Rumex crispus*	F	Common & widespread
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	R	Common & widespread
Field sow thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	O	Common & widespread
Spiny sow thistle	*Sonchus asper*	O	Common & widespread
Dandelion	*Taraxacum*	R	Common & widespread
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*	F	Common & widespread