

## Appendix E

## Ecology Survey and Analysis

### Introduction

Stubbington Study Centre was visited on 30 March 2012 by HCC senior ecologist, who noted the following points.

### Bats

The external features of all the buildings that would be affected by the proposed works are well-sealed and have no features that would potentially provide opportunities for roosting bats. The trees on site to be removed for the proposed works have no knotholes, cracks or fissures that would potentially support roosting bats. It is therefore unlikely that roosting bats would be affected by the works and no further survey is necessary.

In the unlikely event that bats, or evidence of bats, are discovered during the works, works would cease and further advice sought from Natural England and / or a professional ecologist.

### Nesting Birds

Tree felling shall be timed to avoid to the nesting season (March to August inclusive). If proposed works are during the spring and summer, pre-clearance checks shall be carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist. If occupied nests are found, work will cease, and a suitable stand-off maintained, until nests become unoccupied.

### Great Crested Newts

The several water-bodies on the site have the potential to support great crested newts (GCN's), but are not directly impacted by the proposed works. The location of the proposed new dormitory buildings is comprised of closely-mown amenity grassland, which is sub-optimal GCN terrestrial habitat. A GCN survey would not be required, though reasonable avoidance measures listed below will be undertaken to ensure the site is kept unattractive to amphibians, so minimising potential harm to any GCNs that may be present in the locality:

- the working area, and any storage areas shall be kept clear of debris, and materials will be kept off the ground on pallets, preventing GCN's seeking shelter or protection.
- any open excavations (e.g. foundations / footings / service trenches, etc.) shall be covered with plywood sheeting (or similar) at the end of each working day, with the edges covered with a thick layer of topsoil (or similar). This prevents newts from sheltering under the boards. Any excavation must be in-filled at the earliest opportunity, and made good to ground level, with compacted stone or similar, removing any hazard to amphibians.

In the unlikely event that GCNs are discovered during the works, works would cease and further advice sought from Natural England and / or a professional ecologist.

### Badgers

Although Badgers are present on the site, no setts are near the proposed working areas. Avoidance measures listed below, shall minimise potential harm to badgers:

- any trenches dug during the course of the construction works must provide a means of escape (e.g. a ramp) should any animal fall in.
- any temporarily exposed open-pipe system shall be capped to prevent badgers gaining access when contractors are off-site.

Due to the highly mobile nature of badgers, if works have not commenced within the next 6 months a pre-commencement badger survey would be required.