

Ecology Statement

Cannon Hall Park, Barnsley

Introduction

Brooks Ecological were commissioned by Plincke, on behalf of Cannon Hall Museum, to provide a brief Ecology Statement on the proposed works at Cannon Hall Park. The proposed works are:

- (i) Installation of glazing elements to southern elevation of the North Range greenhouse in the Walled Garden
- (ii) Conversion of the Cart Shed to Kiosk
- (iii) Re-surfacing to internal floor of Deer Shelter
- (iv) Boat Landing point to the lake (rowing only), plus potential impact on island.

An assessment of the potential impacts of these proposed works has been made by Senior Ecologist Christopher Shaw MCIEEM, Bat Class License CL18 (Level 2).

An updating walkover survey was undertaken on the 4th February 2020. Previous surveys undertaken by Brooks Ecological and Access Ecology have also been reviewed and results taken into consideration.

Figure 1 Location Plan



North Range

Dedicated Emergence Surveys were undertaken on the North Range in July & August 2017, which at the time confirmed the likely absence of roosting bats. Since this survey was completed, the glasswork and wooden frame of the greenhouse has been removed, and the masonry repointed (See Photo 1). Works to install new glasswork and re-instate the greenhouse (tying into the southern elevation) therefore present minimal risk of impacting on roosting bats and no further survey is considered necessary.

Kiosk

Dedicated Emergence Surveys were undertaken on the Cart Shed in July & August 2017, which at the time confirmed the likely absence of roosting bats. The Cart Shed continues to present low bat roost suitability, and an updated inspection found no evidence of roosting. The proposed works therefore present a low risk of impacting on bats and updating emergence surveys are not considered necessary. Instead, works should proceed with care and vigilance, and should evidence of roosting be identified, work should stop immediately and Brooks Ecological contacted for advice.

Deer Shelter

Dedicated Emergence Surveys were undertaken on the Deer Shelter in July & August 2017, which identified the presence of several roost sites within the roof structure, including a small brown long eared maternity colony and at least six solitary common and soprano pipistrelle day roosts. A European Protected Species Mitigation License was secured in 2018 to cover all proposed works on this building, which included plans to resurface the internal floor; Natural England Ref. 2018-33921-EPS-MIT-1. A valid EPSML is therefore already in place for the proposed re-surfacing works.

The floor re-surfacing works would not be expected to impact directly on any of the identified roosts; however, if undertaken during the summer months, indirect impacts could arise from disturbance. Therefore, as stipulated in the license 'all works to building 13 (Deer Shed) will be carried out between 1st October and 31st March, inclusive.'

Boat Shed

A full suite of detailed ecological studies was undertaken by Access Ecology on the lake between August and September 2017. These studies included an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Bat Roost Suitability Assessment, and presence/ likely absence surveys for white clawed crayfish, great crested newt, reptiles and water vole.

Surveys confirmed the likely absence of white clawed crayfish and water vole within the lake, and the absence of reptiles from the wider Cannon Hall Park site.

Great crested newt was identified within ponds to the north of the Site, but not within Daking Brook Lake, which was assessed as having very low suitability for supporting GCN. The continued likely absence of these species can be reasonably concluded, and updating survey is not considered necessary.

No rare or important bankside vegetation was identified, and no trees with roost suitability are present within influence distance of the proposed boat shed.

The Lake has recently been dredged, for which an Ecological Mitigation Plan was produced (Access Ecology, March 2018). The key potential ecological constraints identified in this document were nesting birds and biohazards (non-native species).

The introduction of rowing boats on to the lake poses a risk of disturbing waterfowl nesting on the central island and along the margins of the lake. This is a common issue encountered by all sites offering recreational rowing. To minimize the risk of this activity affecting nesting birds, the following measures are recommended:

- Information boards / signs should be installed in prominent locations around the boating shed, informing users of the legislation surrounding nesting birds.
- Employees will be suitably trained on the legislation surrounding nesting birds and will play a key role in ensuring that users are aware of the legislation and their duty not to disturb nesting birds.
- Mooring on the central island will be prohibited. Signs to this effect will be installed at regular intervals along the shore of the island stating that 'Access to the island is Strictly Prohibited'. A system will be put in place to ensure anyone breaking the rules are removed from Site and banned from any future activities.

With regards to biohazards, the introduction of rowing boats to the lake presents a risk of (i) introducing new pathogens/ non-native invasive species to the lake and (ii) causing the spread off-site of non-native invasive species (signal crayfish) known to occur within the lake. The risk of this would be present each time boats or other submergible equipment is moved to or from the Site. A Biosecurity Protocol will need to be developed and put in place to deal with this risk; this should be in line with Environment Agency guidance CHECK-CLEAN-DRY.

Photo 1 North Range (southern elevation)



Photo 2 Kiosk



Photo 3 Deer Shelter floor



Photo 4 Boat Shed



Photo 5 Island on lake

