Ecological Appraisal and Assessment for Code for Sustainable Homes at the Site:

Introduction

A Site walkover was undertaken on the 12th April 2010 by Sophie Miller BSc MSc MIEEM, an ecological surveyor with eight years consultancy experience, to assess the Site for uncommon plants or habitats within Sussex. Habitats within, and immediately adjacent to the Site were also assessed for their potential for uncommon and protected fauna including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. This involved identifying features which may be used by protected species, potential foraging areas and other signs of use. Stones, dead wood and rubble were turned over and any dug holes studied for recent activity by mammals. Trees and buildings were also noted if they showed potential for bat roosts.

The Site is comprised of the hospice buildings, sheds and car park which are surrounded by well-maintained lawns, flower-beds and hedgerows. It is located within the residential area of Durrington and is surrounded on all sides by housing.

Results

Habitats (Phase 1 habitat classification, JNCC, 2002) on Site included introduced shrub, semi-improved neutral grassland (species-poor), intact hedgerows (species-poor), open-water (three small fish ponds), scattered trees, bare ground and buildings. The main features of interest are noted as Target Notes on Figure 1 Habitats at St Barnabas Hospice.

Introduced shrub including non-native shrubs and flowers are noted in the flower beds in the eastern side of the Site at Target Note (TN) 1, at the main entrance to the building (TN2) and along the boundaries (TN3 and TN4). Species in the flower beds at TN1 include *Escallonia, Ligustrum, Mahonia, Aubrieta* and *Geranium* species. There is some ivy *Hedera helix* and bulbs in the flower beds. By the main entrance at TN2 there are large shrub species including *Rhododendron, Hebe, Fagus, Prunus* and *Cupressus.* Flowers here include *Tulipa* and *Bergonia* species. Along the western edge of the Site at TN3 there is a narrow flower bed with species such as *Forsythia, Ligustrum* and *Ribes sanguineum.* All the flower beds are well-tended with very few weedy areas.

The lawns are comprised of semi-improved neutral grassland which is mown short and is species-poor. Grass species include Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus,* bent grass *Agrostis* species and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne.* Infrequent herbs included daisy *Bellis perennis,* common dog-violet *Viola riviniana,* dandelion *Taraxacum officinalis,* ribwort