

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

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(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)



Mr Tony Wadley
The Chocolate Factory
Unit 3, Kenfig Industrial Estate
Port Talbot
SA13 2PE
28/07/2022

Our Ref: HE/09/2022

Dear Sirs,

Review of Ecological Surveys undertaken in 2017.

Introduction

Hawkeswood Ecology was instructed in 2017 to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Protected Species Assessment of land at the Chocolate Factory, Kenfig Industrial Estate, Port Talbot, reporting in October 2017. That report concluded that the works undertaken on Site were unlikely to be detrimental to either protected species or the nearby Kenfig Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Hawkeswood Ecology has been instructed to review the findings of that survey for a further planning application. On this occasion, a walk over of the Site was undertaken looking for any significant changes since 2017 that could impact upon habitats or protected species.

Surveyor Experience

The Site was assessed on both occasions by Eric Hawkeswood. Eric has many years experience of broad habitat and detailed botanical and species surveying. He is a Natural Resources Wales (NRW) licensed bat worker (SO88903-1) and has extensive experience of roost inspections and emergence work. He is also licensed to work with dormice (no SO89083-1) and has been involved in initiating and running several dormouse schemes across south Wales. He has been a professional in the nature conservation field for thirty two years formerly working as Reserves Manager and Conservation Officer at Gwent Wildlife Trust and Woodland Manager for the Ruperra Conservation Trust. Eric has worked as an Ecological Consultant as joint proprietor of Hawkeswood Ecology since 2001.

Findings

The Site was dominated by hard tarmac surfaces in 2017 and no changes to this were noted in the current assessment. The Area assessed has been slightly increased from 2017 (see Figure below), but the addition includes only further hard standing areas of laid concrete with no botanical interest. Photographs of the Site are given below.

Two buildings were also re-assessed and found to be in similar condition and use to 2017. These are referred to as Buildings 1 and 2 in the 2017 report and in the Figure below.

It was concluded originally that the Site held little biological interest and there were no ecological objections to the proposed planning application. Brief recommendations were made with regard to bats an(artificial lighting) and the adjacent SAC which are still considered relevant for the new application.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we consider that the works can take place with no impact upon protected species or habitats.

The Site is dominated by hard standing and buildings, the development consist of container units converted for drying timber placed upon the existing surface along with some storage of timber. No evidence was found of the Site being used by protected species and the buildings were not considered to support features suitable for bat roosting purposes. There is potential for bats to forage over the Site and this may be enhanced by the presence of warmer air over the drying units attracting invertebrate prey items.

Consideration to the use of security floodlighting should be given so as not to affect nocturnal animals in adjacent areas.

We hope the information contained is helpful, please ensure this updated letter report is read in conjunction with the original report (Ref HE/60/2017).

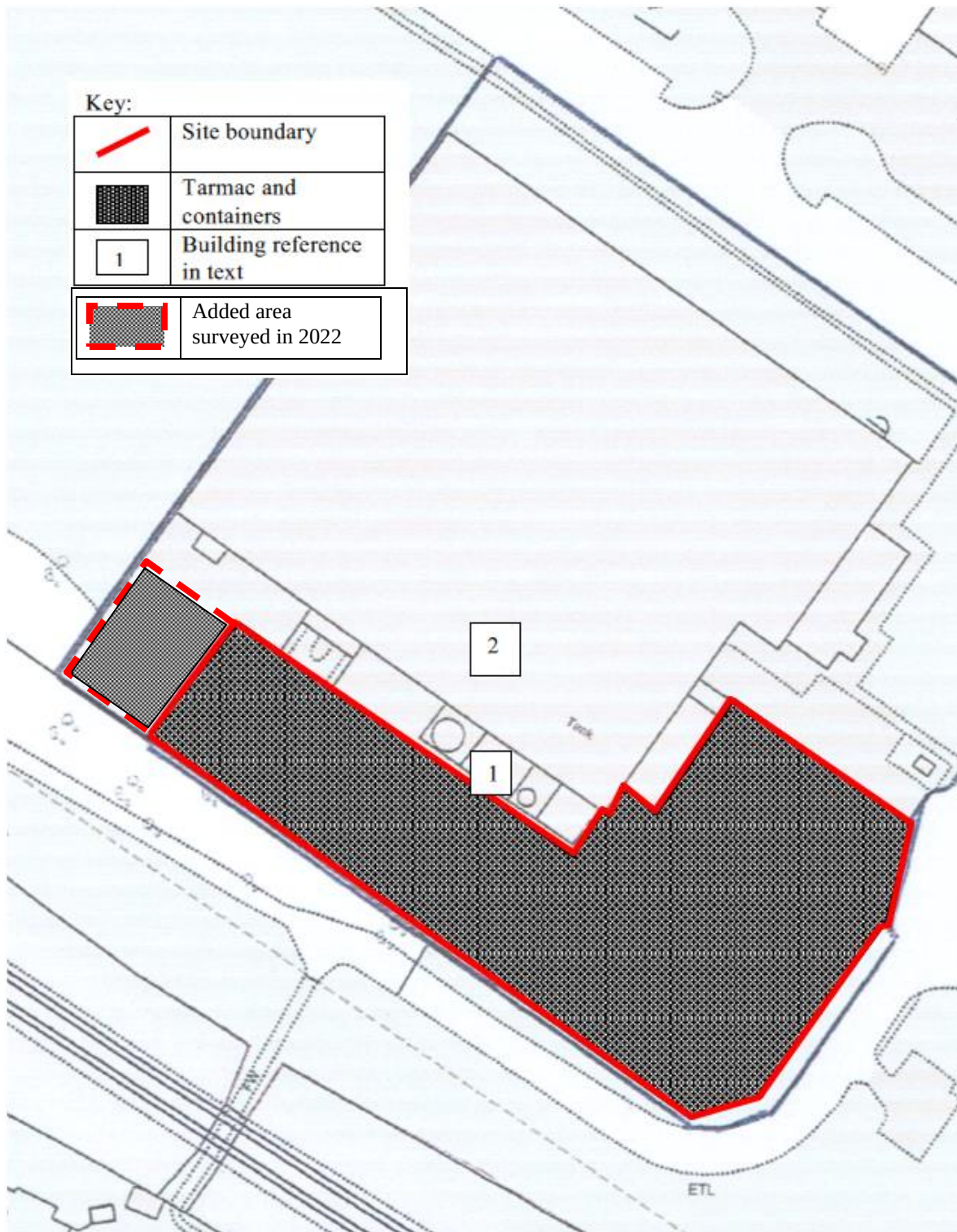
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further detail or have any queries.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hawkeswood', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Eric Hawkeswood
Principal Ecologist

Phase 1 Map



Photographs:



Interior Building 2



Building 1 looking to the west



Looking east (top) and west (bottom, from outside the Site).



The added area to the west, laid concrete.



The mown amenity roadside verge.