



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Bat Roost Survey Report

Ancoats, Manchester

Client: Manchester City Council

AMENITY TREE CARE

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Description, Location and Development Proposals

Amenity Tree Care was commissioned by Planit-IE (the client) to undertake a Preliminary Ground Level Roost Assessment of the trees within the red line boundary of the Jersey St Bridge demolition works boundary.

- 1.2 The client has commissioned the report because the site is part of a public realm scheme that may result in the removal of some of the trees or street infrastructure e.g., street signs and foot bridges and therefore a Bat Roost Assessment is required as such proposals could have a direct impact on protected bat species.
- 1.3 The surrounding landscape is a mixture of commercial and residential properties that are interspersed with areas of green space that includes, deciduous woodland, scattered mature trees and open water. The surrounding habitat offers good foraging and communing opportunities for bats.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to establish the potential of the buildings or structures to offer shelter and / or roost facilities to protected species, in particular bats although an appraisal will be undertaken for birds including house nesting species.
- 1.6 The objectives of the survey are to undertake a detailed inspection of all the trees and structures growing within the boundaries of the site and identify those trees and structures that have potential features that are suitable for roosting bats.
- 1.7 The survey was undertaken from ground level only where features were identified that are suitable for roosting bats and could not be fully inspected from ground level will be subject to dusk emergence surveys and/or pre-dawn entry surveys.
- 1.8 The objectives include the provision of any applicable mitigation measures and / or further survey recommendations in relation to the extent and use of the site by protected species as is required by the current Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist best practice guidelines (Collins 2016).

2.0 Bat Survey Methodology – Trees and structures

2.1 The surveys involve a detailed inspection of the trees and structures from ground level to record Potential Roosting Features (PRF) all in accordance with BCT Guidelines for trees and structures. The following information will be collected where trees have been surveyed and have PRF that may be suitable for roosting bats. Tree name, tree height (m), stem diameter at 1.5m above ground level (mm), average crown spread and number of tree stems.

2.2 PRFs that are often utilised by tree roosting bats are as follow;

- Old pruning wounds that have not occluded
- Woodpecker holes
- Partially detached tree bark
- Hazard beams and open cracks included unions
- Cavities caused by storm damage and decay fungi
- Ivy more than 50mm in diameter

2.3 The location of the tree will be recorded using X(Easting) Y(Northing) coordinates for accuracy.

2.4 The survey was undertaken following the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist best practice guidelines (Collins 2016).

2.5 The following equipment was used during the survey a high-powered LED Lenser P17.2 Torch, Explorer Premium Endoscope and Zeiss Binoculars.

2.5 Pre-existing Data on Local Bat Species

2.6 A 2-kilometer desktop search was carried out using the MAGIC website that is managed by Natural England. The results showed that 9 European Protected Species License for bats have been recorded within the 2 kilometer search radius of the site.

2.8 Surveyor Information

2.9 The Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment survey was undertaken by licensed bat surveyor Steven Shell (Natural England Licence Ref: 2018-38336-CLS-CLS.) on the 16th of February 2022.

2.10 Survey Limitations

2.11 The surveyor had full access to the site and there were no site constraints that restricted the survey of the trees.

3.0 Assessment of Trees and Structures for PRF

- 3.1 A total of 1 individual tree has been surveyed and 1 group. The schedule for the trees and map is in Appendix 1 of this document.
- 3.2 Two following tree species are present on-site.
- 3.3 Although there are four trees growing within the survey area the trees have not been alive long enough to develop the old growth characteristics that provide suitable roosting habitat for bats. The type of features that are used by bats include, rot holes, loose bark, cavities, splits, and woodpecker holes.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the features listed above can also occur on younger trees where damage has occurred by poor pruning or associated with storm damage.
- 3.5 Only one tree was identified as having low roost suitability which was tree 1 a mature poplar tree growing in a locked compound adjacent to Jersey Street. The tree was covered in ivy which has a stem diameter of up to 40mm on the lower stem of the tree after 2m in height the diameter reduced to 10mm in diameter.
- 3.6 The ivy remains tightly attached to the tree and was not large enough in size to provide shelter for roosting bats. A climbing inspection was undertaken by the bat surveyor to check that the ivy was not obscuring any features that could have been used by roosting bats. No features were found during the climbing inspection. The tree was deemed as having low roost suitability this means that no further surveys are required.
- 3.7 In summary, tree 1 was deemed as having low roost potential and the remaining trees on the site have negligible potential roost features for bats. No further surveys are required.
- 3.8 The highway bridge will be surveyed as part of an addendum to this BRA and issued to the client in due course. Should bats be found 3no. surveys will be carried out and a mitigation statement supplied to the client.
- 3.9 Should bats be found then mitigation will follow BCT and Natural England guidelines.

3.10 Foraging and commuting habitat for bats

- 3.11 An assessment was made of the habitat that surrounds Ancoats and its suitability for foraging and commuting bats. Bats use key features in the landscape such as hedgerows, rivers, ponds and woodland edges to navigate from one area of the countryside to another. These features are also used by bats for foraging insects.
- 3.12 The surrounding landscape is a mixture of commercial and residential properties that are interspersed with areas of green space that includes, deciduous woodland, scattered mature trees and open water. The surrounding habitat offers good foraging and commuting opportunities for bats.
- 3.13 These types of habitat significantly increase the potential for structures to be exploited by bats where suitable roosting opportunities and good access available.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 It is not possible to check all parts of the trees and structures during the survey and the lack of evidence does not always equate to evidence that bats are absent from the trees. Except for tree 1 which has a low roost potential the remaining trees on site have negligible potential for roosting bats.

5.0 Further Survey Requirements and Mitigation

- 5.1 No further surveys are required.

Appendix One – Legislation for protected species

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [WCA] is the primary legislation for England and Wales for the protection of flora, fauna and the countryside. Part I within the Act deals with the protection of wildlife.

Most European Protected Species offences are now covered under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (see below), but some 'intentional' acts are still covered under the WCA, such as obstructing access to a bat roost.

The WCA prohibits the release to the wild of non-native animal species listed on Schedule 9 (e.g. Signal Crayfish and American Mink). It also prohibits planting in the wild of plants listed in Schedule 9 (e.g. Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron ponticum) or otherwise deliberately causing them to grow in the wild. This is to prevent the release of invasive non-native species that could threaten our native wildlife.

The provisions relating to animals in the Act only apply to 'wild animals'; these are defined as those that are living wild or were living wild before being captured or killed. It does not apply to captive bred animals being held in captivity.

There are 'defences' provided by the WCA. These are cases where acts that would otherwise be prohibited by the legislation are permitted, such as the incidental result of a lawful operation which could not be reasonably avoided, or actions within the living areas of a dwelling house.

Licensing: certain prohibited actions under the Wildlife and Countryside Act may be undertaken under licence by the proper authority. For example, scientific study that requires capturing or disturbing protected animals can be allowed by obtaining a licence – e.g. bat surveys.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (which are the principal means by which the EC Habitats Directive is transposed in England and Wales) update the legislation and consolidate all the many amendments which have been made to the Regulations since they were first made in 1994.

These regulations provide for the:

- protection of European Protected Species [EPS] (animals and plants listed in Annex IV Habitats Directive which are resident in the wild in Great Britain) including bats, dormice, great crested newts, and otters;
- designation and protection of domestic and European Sites - e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] and Special Area of Conservation [SAC]; and
- adaptation of planning controls for the protection of such sites and species.

Public bodies (including the Local Planning Authority) have a duty to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in exercising their function – i.e. when determining a planning application.

There is no defence that an act was the incidental and unavoidable result of a lawful activity.

Licensing: it is possible for actions which would otherwise be an offence under the Regulations to be undertaken under licence issued by the proper authority. For example, where a European Protected Species has been identified and the development risks deliberately affecting an EPS, then a 'development licence' may be required.

Species protection

The following protected species information is relevant to this report. Legislation is only discussed in relation to planning and development; other offences may exist.

Bats

All British bats are classed as European Protected Species and therefore receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, making it an offence inter alia to:

- Deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat;
- Deliberately disturb bats;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat.

In addition, all British bats are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which contains further provisions making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- Obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection; or
- Disturb any bat while occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

If proposed development work is likely to destroy or disturb bats or their roosts, then a licence will need to be obtained from Natural Resources Wales, which would be subject to appropriate measures to safeguard bats.

Birds

In the UK, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected it an offence to:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird whilst it is in use or being built; or
- take or destroying an egg of any such wild bird.

The law covers all species of wild birds including common, pest or opportunistic species.

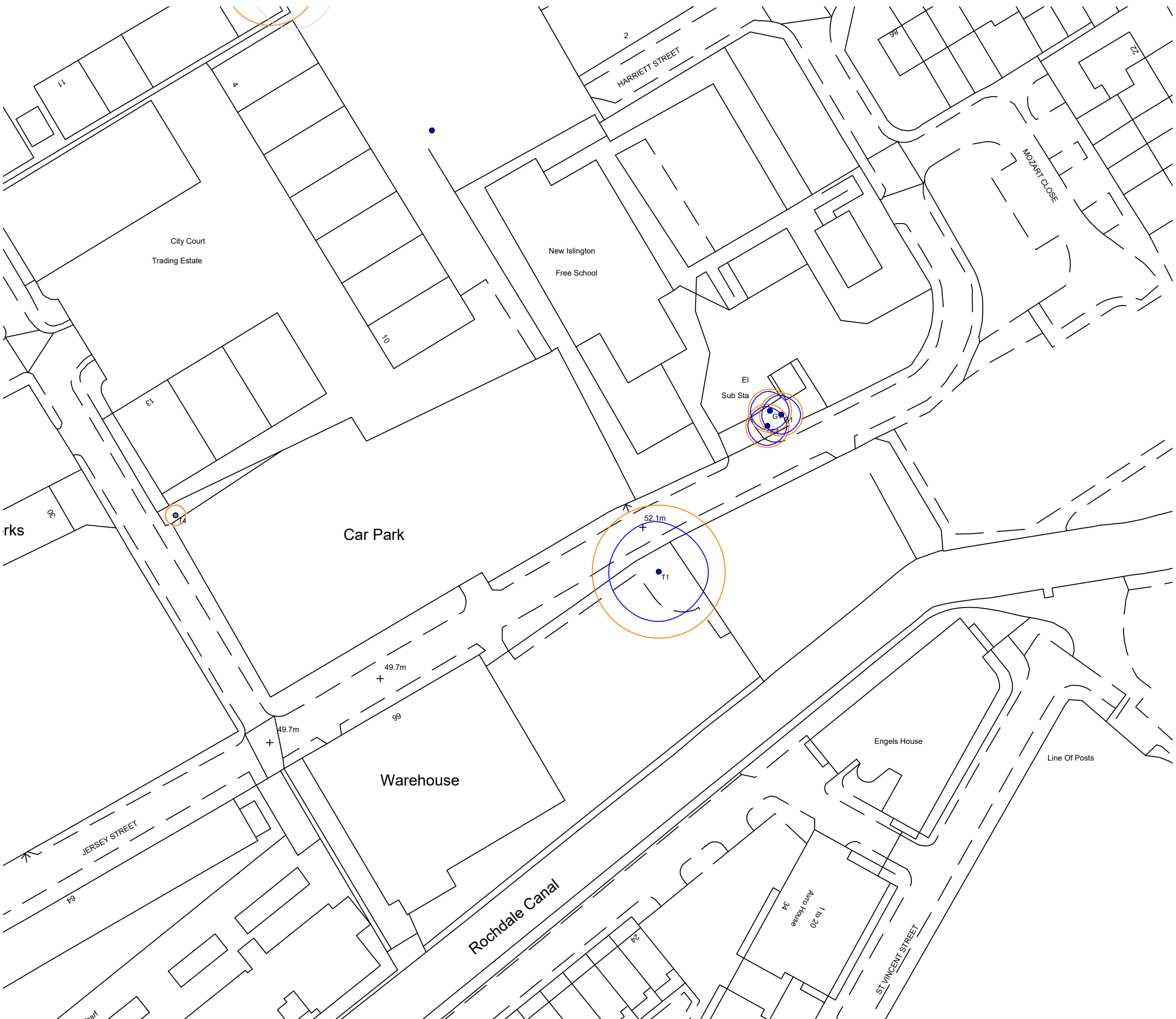
Special protection against disturbance during the breeding season is also afforded to those species listed on Schedule 1 of the A

Site Photographs



Figure 1: The photograph shows tree 1 covered in ivy that was deemed to have low roost potential.

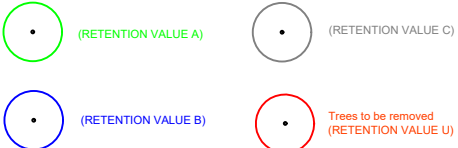
Tree No.	Common Name	Height(m)	Comments	Potential Roost Feature for Bats	Roost suitability
T1	Hybrid Black Poplar	23	Ivy on stem. Unable to inspect stem due to Ivy.	Dense ivy on tree stem and extending into lower crown of tree	Low
G1	Norway Maple	10	Regeneration on boundary.	None	Negligible



Ancoast – Jersey St

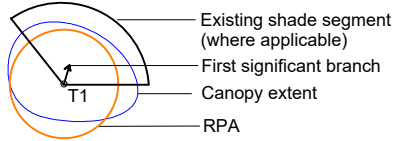
TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN

Retention value key



Root Protection Areas (RPA)

Root Protection Areas (RPA's) have been identified and are based on BS5837:2012. RPA's have been shown as a red polyline.



Client:

Manchester City Council

Project:

Ancoast - Jersey St

Detail:

TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN - Overview

Drawn By:

SB

Date:

26.03.2022

Scale:

1:750@A3

Drg No:

TR-01

Revision:

V1

NOTES:

1. Do not scale from this drawing.
2. Always work to noted dimensions.
3. All dimensions are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.
4. All setting out, levels and dimensions to be agreed on site.
5. The dimensions of all materials must be checked on site before being laid out.
6. This drawing must be read with the relevant specification clauses and detail drawings.
7. Order of construction and setting out to be agreed on site.

Jersey St Application Boundary

Ownership Boundary

MCC Highway Ownership



Division	Date	Description	Drawn	Apprvd.
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project Back Of Ancoats

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Org No.	Suitability	Revision
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