Tree felling protocol



Wilbraham Road
23rd May 2023

TG Report No. 14807_R06_WR

Tyler Grange

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14807	R06	23rd May 2023	-

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Summary

S.1. This Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Anwyl Construction Company Ltd 'The Client' for parcel of land at Harry Dalton Fields, Chorlton (OS Grid Reference SJ 82633 94301), hereinafter referred to as the 'site'.

S.2. A preliminary bat roost assessment (PBRA) found several trees with low and negligible potential to support roosting bats (see **Plan 1 Habitat Features Plan** showing locations). Of these trees, eight low potential trees T7, T8, T9, T10, T11, T14, G1A and G1B are to be removed (see **Appendix 1 Tree Removal Plan**). Under best practice guidelines trees with low potential to support roosting bats do not require further surveys but do require sensitive felling to minimise the risk of killing or injuring bats.

S.3. This PWMS sets out the legislative context and precautionary methods of working to facilitate the first phase of the development and avoid triggering of the relevant legislation.

Section 1: Introduction and Background

1.1. This Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Anwyl Construction Company Ltd 'The Client' for parcel of land at Harry Dalton Fields, Chorlton (OS Grid Reference SJ 82633 94301), hereinafter referred to as the 'site'.

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1.3. This PWMS sets out the legislative context and precautionary methods of working to facilitate the first phase of the development and avoid triggering of the relevant legislation.

Section 2: Legislation and Conservation Status

Bats

2.1. As a European protected species, all UK bats receive legal protection in England under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (CoHSR) 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended).

2.2. All British species of bat are listed on Schedule 2 of the CoHSR 2017 (as amended) as European Protected Species (EPS). Regulation 41 (1) makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture or injure an EPS;
- Deliberately disturb an EPS; and/or
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an EPS.

2.3. All British bats are listed in Schedule 5 of the WCA. Section 9 of the WCA affords protection to Schedule 5 animals against:

- Intentional killing, injuring or taking;
- Possessing (including parts or derivatives);
- Intentional or reckless damage, destruction, or obstruction of any structure or place used for shelter, or protection; and/or
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale (alive or dead, including parts or derivatives).

2.4. All British bats are also listed at Schedule 6 of the WCA, and as such under Section11 (1) of the WCA cannot be killed or taken by certain methods, such as traps and nets, poisons, automatic weapons, electrical devices, smoke/gases etc.

2.5. Several British bat species are listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, which states that decision-makers such as Local Planning Authorities must have regard to Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) in all their activities, including when making decisions on planning applications.

2.6. The following bat species are SoPIs: barbastrelle *Barbastrella barbastrellus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long eared *Plecotus auritus*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, and soprano pipistrelle. These are the species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

Section 3: Proposed Works and Potential for impacts

Proposed Works

3.1. Several trees with potential to support roosting bats are proposed for removal to facilitate the proposed development (see **Appendix 1**), they are as follows:

- Tree T7 + T8 – Mature multi-stem sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with ivy coverage that could conceal Potential Roost Features (PRFs);
- Tree T9 – Sycamore. Mature tree;
- Tree T10 + T11 – Sycamore. Mature tree;
- Tree T14 – Multi-stem sycamore with ivy coverage;
- Tree G1A + G1B – Mature sycamore.

Bats

3.2. In the absence of appropriate precautions, the works present a risk of destroying bat roosts, if present, and triggering the legislation detailed above. Therefore, mitigation measures are set out below to minimise the potential for breaching the relevant legislation.

Section 4: PWMS Methodology

4.1. The measures to be implemented below will only be implemented following a toolbox talk (see **Appendix 2**) to all contractors by a suitable qualified ecologist (SQE) with Level 2 bat licence.

4.2. Prior to commencement of works on site, 1x Schwegler 2F Bat Box should be erected on a suitable retained tree, posited on a south facing aspect, under guidance by the SQE.

Toolbox Talk

4.3. Prior to the commencement of works on site, the contractors will be given a 'toolbox talk' by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), to ensure they are familiar with the safe working methods outlined in this document, can recognise bats and their habitats which may be found during works, and know what to do in the unlikely event of bats being discovered. Contractors brought onto the project thereafter will be required to attend the Toolbox Talk before commencing any work with the potential to impact on bats or nesting birds.

Soft felling methodology

4.4. The trees requiring removal will be soft felled to minimise the risk of killing or injuring any bats. A Natural England Level 2 licenced bat ecologist will be required to supervise the works at all times. The methodology for which is as follows:

- Initially the trees will be climbed and inspected for potential roost features by a licenced bat worker;
- Should no features or features with low potential be found soft felling can then commence;
- Should features with moderate, high potential or signs of or individual bats be found works should cease until Natural England can be consulted*;
- Trees are to be section felled using the required equipment i.e., a chain saw;
- Where a potential roost features i.e. a knot hole, is found with no signs or presence of bats a section this will be cut sufficiently below or above to not kill a bat within; and
- Each section is to be roped and lowered to the ground and stacked in a discrete area of the site for a week to allow any bats reside within to escape.

4.5. *In the event a bat is found, depending on the situation, the following should take place:

- If a bat is found in a section already felled the bat should be removed and placed within the bat box on-site;

- If a bat or signs of bats are found within a tree during inspection, works should cease, and Natural England consulted. As a bat roost has been discovered a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence ESPML will be required to remove the roost;

- If a features with moderate or high potential to support roosting bats is found works on this tree should cease and further surveys will be required to determine if bats are using this feature to roost

Section 5: Conclusion

5.1. Provided that the proposed works can proceed in accordance with the precautionary working measures detailed in this report, it is considered that the above species are unlikely to be harmed and the relevant legislation should not be triggered.

Appendix 1: Tree Removal and Protection Plan

Survey Boundary

Category B - Trees of Moderate Quality and Value

Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value

Root Protection Areas

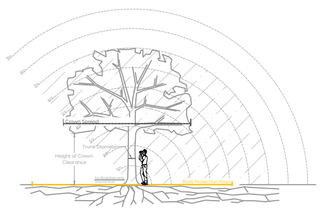
Proposed Tree Pruning Works

Proposed Tree Removals

Existing hard-surfacng within plotted RPA

Tree Shading Constraints

*Denotes trees and groups not identified on topographical survey. Locations approximated using measurements taken on site.



BRANTINGHAM ROAD

Approximately 63m2 of G11 to be pruned back to the boundary fence to facilitate construction of boundary treatments as proposed.

H3 to be pruned back to the boundary fence to facilitate construction of fencing as proposed

H1 and H2 to be pruned back to boundary fence to facilitate construction of boundary fence.

Removal of c.17m2 of G5 to facilitate construction of vehicular access road as proposed.

Removal of c.75m2 of G4 to facilitate construction of vehicular access road as proposed.

Existing hard surfacing likely restricting RPA of T6. See rear of 14807_R01 for full details.

Football Ground

WILBRAHAM ROAD

Shelter

29.5m

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Rev	Description	Date
B	Access Changes	24.11.2022

Project title
Land off Wilbraham Road, Chorlton

Drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan

Scale 1:500 @ A1
Date 08.10.2022
Drawn WS
Checked LB

Drawing number
14807_P03

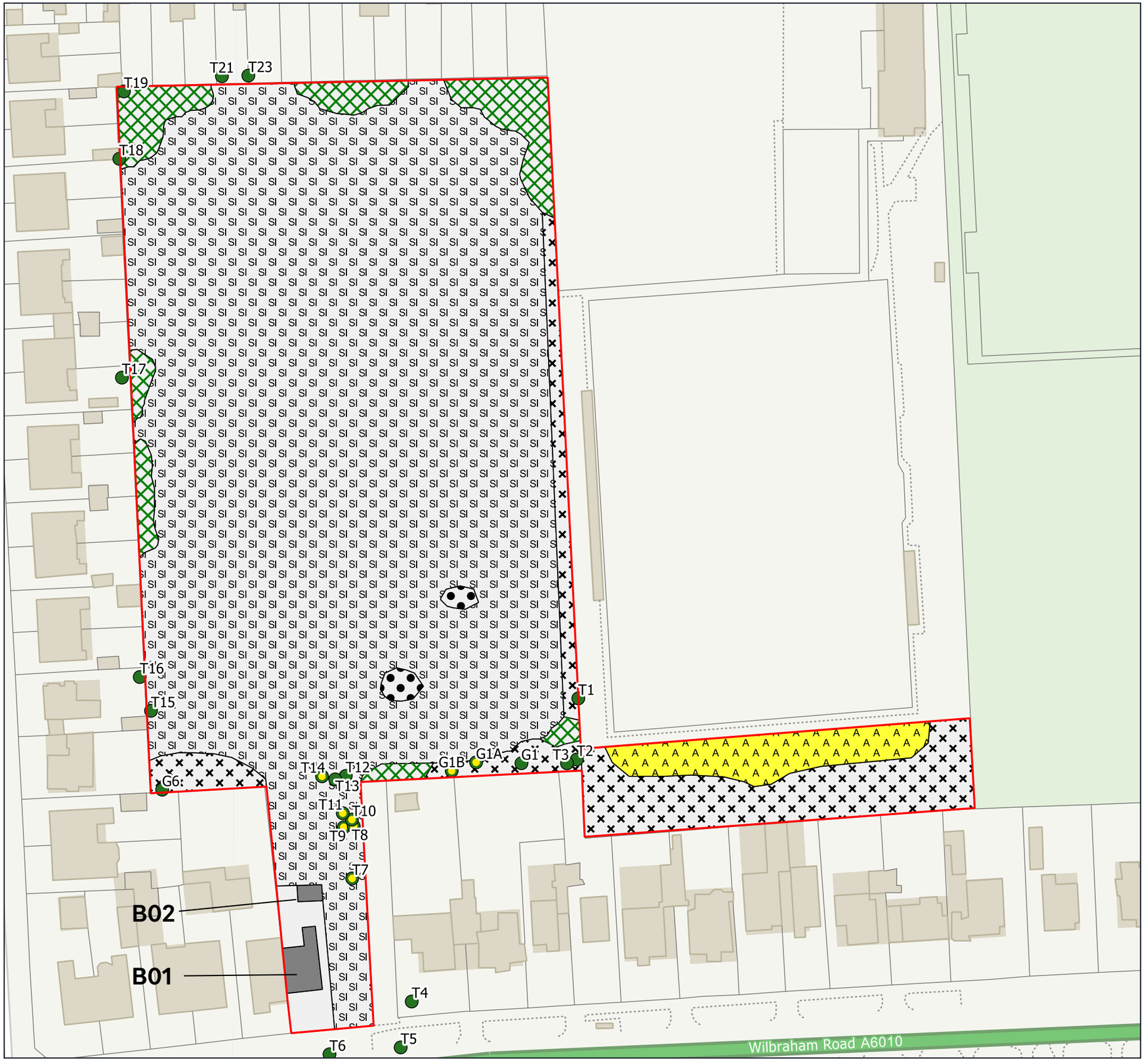
Revision
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Appendix 2: Tool Box Talk Attendance Form

Ecologist Details	
Name:	
Date:	
All bat species in the UK are afforded full protection under UK legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended, and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended). Together this legislation makes in an offence to: • Intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a bat; • Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts; and • Disturb bats. A bat roost is defined as 'any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection.' Roosts are protected whether or not bats are present at the time. Offences relating to bats carry a maximum penalty not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000) and/or a 6-month prison sentence. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are afforded protection under the WCA, 1981 (as amended). It is thus an offence (with certain exemptions) to intentionally kill or injure any wild bird, intentionally damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, and intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. All tool box talk is to be carried out as part of the site induction and prior to commencement of works	
Team Details	
Please sign to confirm that you have received & understood the information above for the above date, site and in relation to the tasks at hand.	
Name & Role:	**Signature:**

Plans

Plan 1: Habitat Features plan



Redline Boundary

J5 - Other habitat

J4 - Bare ground

J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial

J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland

Hardstanding

B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland

A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous

Scattered Trees

Low BRP

Negligible BRP

N

0 50 m

Project	Land off Wilbraham Road, Chorlton
Drawing Title	Habitat Features Plan
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	14807/P02a
Date	November 2022
Checked	BP/JD

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