



Tree Bat Roost Survey Report

Olive School, Bignor Street Park, Manchester

Client: Conlon Construction

AMENITY TREE Ltd

WILLOW HILL COTTAGE, SCHOOL LANE BURWARDSLEY CHESTER, CH3 9NX

Tel: 01829 770075 www.amenitytree.com

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	3
1.1 Site Description, Location and Development Proposals.....	3
2.0 Bat Survey Methodology.....	4
2.5 Pre-existing Data on Local Bat Species	4
2.8 Surveyor Information	4
2.10 Survey Limitations	4
3.0 Assessment of Trees for Potential Roost Features	5
4.0 Conclusion	5
4.2 Further Survey Requirements.....	5
Appendices.....	
Appendix 1 Legislation for Protected Species	6
Tree Reference Plan.....	8
Potential Roost Feature Schedule	10

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Description, Location and Development Proposals

- 1.2 Amenity Tree has been commissioned by Conlon Construction (the client) to undertake a Preliminary Ground Level Roost Assessment of all trees within the boundaries of the site at Bignor Street Park in Manchester. The client has commissioned the report because the site is to be developed and the trees will be removed to facilitate the development. Therefore, a Bat Roost Assessment is required as such proposals could directly impact protected bat species.
- 1.3 The site is a small public open space located in the north Manchester district of Cheetham Hill in Manchester. The survey area is centred at grid reference SD841007. The area is a mix of large residential housing estates and sprawling industrial areas. Many of the trees are growing around the periphery of the site. The client is intending to retain most of the trees on site.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to establish the potential of the buildings 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.
- 1.5 The objectives of the survey are to undertake a detailed inspection of all the trees growing within the boundaries of the site and identify those trees that have potential features that are suitable for roosting bats.
- 1.6 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 and will be subject to dusk emergence surveys and/or pre-dawn entry surveys.
- 1.7 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

2.1 The surveys involve a detailed inspection of the trees from ground level to record Potential Roosting Features (PRF). 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 and 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.

2.6 Pre-existing Data on Local Bat Species

2.7 A 2-kilometer desktop search was carried out using the MAGIC website which is managed by Natural England. The results showed that two European Protected Species Licenses for bats have been recorded within the 2-kilometer search radius of the site. The species of bats recorded were both Common and Soprano pipistrelle.

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 19th of November 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 for PRF

- 3.1 The Potential Roost Feature (PRF) schedule for the trees is in Appendix 1 of this document.
- 3.2 In summary, a total of twenty-eight individual trees and one group of trees have been surveyed. Nine potential roost features were recorded all were assessed as negligible.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 No bat roosts were identified, and all trees were graded as having negligible bat roost potential.

4.2 Further Survey Requirements and Mitigation

- 4.3 No further surveys for bats 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



AMENITY TREE Ltd

Client:
Conlon Construction

Project:
Bignor Street Park, Manchester

Detail:
Tree Reference Plan

Drawn By: SS Date: 22.12.2022 Scale: NTS

Drg No: 01 Revision: V1

Tree No.	Common Name	Potential Roost Feature for Bats	Roost Suitability - Negligible, Low, Moderate, High
T1	Ash	Approximately 50% of the bark has been stripped around the trunk of the tree.	Negligible
T2	Norway Maple		Negligible
T3	Norway Maple		Negligible
T4	Norway Maple		Negligible
T5	Ash		Negligible
T6	Norway Maple	There is a 1.5m long bark wound on the west side of the stem. Significant wound wood has formed around the margins of the wound.	Negligible
T7	Norway Maple		Negligible
T8	Ash	There is very old bark wound on the east side of the trunk.	Negligible
T9	Ash		Negligible
T10	Ash		Negligible
T11	Ash	There is a very old bark wound at 1.2m above ground level on the south side of the tree stem.	Negligible
T12	Whitebeam		Negligible
T13	Ash		Negligible
T14	Whitebeam		Negligible
T15	Ash		Negligible
T16	Norway Maple		Negligible
T17	Ash		Negligible
T18	Norway Maple		Negligible
T19	Ash		Negligible
T20	Ash		Negligible
T21	Sycamore		Negligible
T22	Common Lime	There is a very old bark wound on the southeast side of the tree stem. The wound is very old as significant wound wood has formed around the margins of the wound.	Negligible
T23	Norway Maple		Negligible
T24	Norway Maple	There are several large old bark wounds around the trunk and a longitudinal wound over 1.5m in length on the west side of the tree stem.	Negligible
T25	Common Lime		Negligible
T26	Sycamore		Negligible
T27	Sycamore		Negligible
T28	Norway Maple		Negligible
G1	Norway Maple Sycamore	A group of very young self-seeded trees that are covered in ivy. The ivy did not preclude the survey of the trees and no potential roost features were identified and the ivy is not dense enough to offer shelter to roosting bats.	Negligible