

20th September 2024

Uttlesford Application Ref.: UTT/24/1898/PINS PINS Application Ref.: S62A/2024/0057 Location: Former Friends School Field Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden Proposal: Consultation on S62A/2024/0057 – Erection of 91 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing field and associated clubhouse

RE: Holding objection due to insufficient ecological information on European Protected Species (bats).

To: Planning Officer, Uttlesford District Council.

Dear Sir/ Madam

Eight of the trees scheduled for removal were surveyed in February 2024, with all found to have negligible suitability to support roosting bats. These were tree numbers 3, 8, 9, 10, 11 (2 trees), 12 and 19.

The removal of three more trees is required to improve pedestrian connectivity into the site. This will entail the removal of three trees in the north-eastern corner of the Application Site (numbers 34, 34A and 35 (part of hedgerow)).

As such, an updating ground level tree assessment (GLTA) was carried out to assess the suitability of these trees to support roosting bats.

The survey was carried out by Brian Hicks MCIEEM of ACD Environmental. Bat licence number 2015-14880-CLS-CLS, using a high-powered torch. Although leaves covered the upper levels, it was possible to inspect the stem and branches fully. The survey was carried out on 18th September 2024. Weather conditions were dry and clear.

Tree number 34 is a yew *Taxus baccata* which is multi stemmed. The tree is clad with a light covering of ivy *Hedera helix* to a height of approximately 4m. The tree has no visible gaps or splits that are suitable for roosting bats.

Tree number 34A is a field maple *Acer campestre* which is multi stemmed with a light covering of ivy to a height of 4m. The tree has no visible gaps or splits that are suitable for roosting bats.

Tree number 35 is a part of the understorey hedgerow and no suitable features for roosting bats are present.

Several other trees are scheduled for pruning works. None of these trees was found to contain any visible features suitable for roosting bats.

It is considered that all of the trees which are scheduled for removal, or the proposed tree surgery works, have negligible suitability for roosting bats.

It should be noted that the survey was carried out at a time when leaves obstructed the view of the upper levels of the trees. No works are proposed to the upper levels of the trees as part of this application but

should works be required in this area then further surveys would be required.

Yours sincerely

Brian Hicks
Senior Ecologist
ACD Environmental