

Endoscope Inspection

Site Address: Colne Spring Villa, Coursers Road, Colney Heath, AL4 0PB

Client Name: Manor Coliving Limited

Reference: Endoscope visit to check one tree T4 for bat roosting suitability.

Date of visit: 29th October 2024

Background

Arbtech Consulting Ltd was instructed to carry out a site visit to endoscope tree T4 and assess features identified in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2024) for bat roosting suitability. The tree will be felled to facilitate the proposed development at the site. This file note is an addendum to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report.

Site survey

Tree T4 is a mature pine *Pinus* sp, with a DBH of ~50cm and a height of ~14m. The tree has a large area of wound-wood which has started to decay, creating feature 1 at ~1.3m above ground and feature 2 at ~3m above ground. Feature 1 was inspected using an endoscope. There is a slim decay cavity which is densely covered with spiderwebs with debris caught, indicating a lack of recent use. The feature could support individual bats, although shows no evidence of bat use. Feature 2 was found to be superficial and only ~2cm deep. The feature therefore provides no suitability for roosting bats.

Site photos (29 October 2024):

Photos showing the tree T4 and the identified potential roosting features.



Tree T4 (left). Feature 1 (centre). Feature 2 (right).

Recommendations

As per Tables 6.3 and 7.1 of the Bat Survey Guidelines (2023) trees with PRF-I's only do not require further survey effort, however, compensation for lost features should be installed prior to tree felling works, and works should be carried out under a precautionary working method statement (PWMS). The PWMS includes:

- Prior to any PRF removal, suitable compensation should be provided onsite (i.e. bat boxes in appropriate locations).
- Any identified PRF-I feature(s) will be soft felled in conjunction with an experienced arborist who has undergone bat awareness training. This will involve sections of the tree with the PRF to be cut away and lowered to the ground.
- Any PRFs felled will be left in-situ on the ground within a 10m exclusion zone for 24 hours.
- In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.

Roosting Enhancements

The installation of one bat box at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat box will be installed on a retained mature tree. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level, facing in a south or south-westerly direction, with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from and unlit by artificial light, and not above any windows. The bat box will be a specification suitable for crevice dwelling species such as General Purpose Bat Box for crevice and void dwellers, Elisa Bat Box for crevice dwellers or a similar alternative brand.

Report ends.

Author

Charlie Drapala BSc (Hons) AMRSB, holder of a Natural England Class 1 Bat Licence, and Accredited Agent on Natural England Class 2 Bat Licence [2018-33540-CLS-CLS]

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