

1st July 2025

**Uttlesford Application Ref.: UTT/25/1343/PINS| Consultation on S62A/2025/0107** Erection of 75no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing fields and associated clubhouse

**Location: Former Friends School Field Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden**

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

To: Planning Officer, Uttlesford District Council.

Dear Sir/ Madam

ACD Environmental Ltd. carried out ground level tree assessments of eight trees scheduled for removal in February 2024 in relation to previous planning application **S62A/2024/0057**, with the results provided in an Ecological impact Assessment (EcIA). To summarise, these were tree numbers 3 (purple beech), 8 (birch), 9 (birch), 10 (walnut), 11 (2 trees - birch), 12 (purple beech) and 19 (beech)., with all found to have **negligible suitability** to support roosting bats. These trees were reassessed on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, as part of the current application, with all trees found to be in the same condition as previously.

Two more trees were added to the schedule for removal; these are tree 13 (Norway maple) and 14 (pair of purple beech). These trees are part of the same group as those listed above and were surveyed at the same times. Tree 13 was found to have **negligible suitability** for roosting bats. Tree 14 was found to have a light covering of ivy which prevented full inspection. No suitable potential bat roosting features were recorded, and it is assessed as having **low suitability** for roosting bats. Therefore, it is recommended that this tree is felled with precautionary methods, detailed below.

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 [REDACTED] 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 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 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, including the line of trees on the eastern boundary. None of these trees was found to contain any visible features suitable for roosting bats.

#### Precautionary methods

Tree 14 has a covering of ivy which prevented detailed inspection. It is recommended that the ivy is removed before felling, and any potential roosting features (PRF's) such as cracks, holes or splits are noted. If any PRF's are present then work on that tree will stop and the ecologist notified prior to felling.

Yours sincerely

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Senior Ecologist

ACD Environmental