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BAT GROUND LEVEL & AERIAL TREE ASSESSMENT

At

Land off St Georges Road
Abergele
Conwy
LL22 9BX

NGR: SH 95410 77037

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **3**
1 INTRODUCTION **5**
1.1 Author, surveyors and qualifications 5
1.2 Survey objectives 5
1.3 Proposed development 6
1.4 Structure of the report 6
2 METHODOLOGY **7**
2.1 General 7
2.2 Ground-level tree assessment 7
2.3 Aerial tree assessment 8
2.4 Survey limitations 8
3 RESULTS **9**
3.1 Habitat assessment 9
3.2 Ground Level Tree assessment 9
3.3 Aerial Tree assessment 10
4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS **11**
4.1 Evaluation of results 11
4.2 Mitigation and compensation measures 12
5 CONCLUSION **14**
6 REFERENCES **15**
APPENDICES **16**
Appendix 1 – GLTA survey results 16
Appendix 2 – ATA survey results 17
Appendix 3 – GLTA tree plan 18
Appendix 4 – ATA tree plan 19
Appendix 5 – Photograph 20
Appendix 6 – External lighting guidance 21
Appendix 7 – Statutory Planning Context 22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is written by Kathryn McGrath, BSc, MA, Assistant Ecologist at United Environmental Services Ltd (UES). It provides an assessment of the potential impacts on bats as a result of the proposed tree works associated with the development at Land off St Georges Road, Abergele. No detailed proposals are yet available; however, the proposed development is set to include construction of residential dwellings along with associated access roads and infrastructure and greenspace.

All trees with the potential to be adversely impacted by the development proposals within the redline boundary, as highlighted by the Tree Constraints Plan from MDLandscape (ref: 442-TCP-T-T-100-112_P01.1), were subjected to a ground-level assessment of bat roosting potential by UES on 22nd July 2026. This included the following trees: H4, G946, G968, T689, T711, T945, T947, T957, T963, T964, T965 and T966. Following these surveys the development boundary was reduced to the southern field as show in the site layout drawings (ref: BD_ABRGL_SL02 _Rev D_05/11/2025). Potential roosting features (PRFs) were identified and inspected where possible using binoculars and a high-powered torch. All PRFs were assessed and categorised according to their suitability to support roosting bats, as detailed in Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidance (Collins, 2023). Where necessary, trees were subject to further aerial assessments to inspect features that could not be fully classified from ground level.

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 4.4ha and mainly comprises poor quality modified grassland as well as species-rich and other native hedgerows, scattered trees and areas of mixed scrub and bramble scrub.

The habitats immediately adjacent to the site predominantly consist of residential dwellings with linked gardens, which are located directly to the west of the site. The amenity gardens will provide some connectivity for bats, however, generally provide low-quality foraging and commuting opportunities for bats due to their limited extent, high levels of disturbance and artificial lighting. The treelines and hedgerows to the south-east of the site will provide high-quality commuting features and an abundance of foraging opportunities for bats. The A55 runs not far from the site to the east and is a well-lit, major road which does not provide a suitable habitat for bats. However, St Georges Road is located close to the southern site boundary and comprise of a minor road which is lit in places, however the section of St Georges Road to the south of the site is unlit, and the associated mature trees will provide an important commuting feature for bats.

The wider surrounding area predominantly consists of arable and pasture fields. There are pockets of woodland within a 2km radius including a small area of woodland approximately 296m south-west of the site, which will provide commuting, foraging and potential roosting features. In summary, the immediate and wider surrounding areas will provide moderate quality habitat for foraging and commuting bats. This is based on the presence of woodland, treelines and hedgerows in a predominantly rural landscape. Furthermore, the numerous trees and buildings in the local area will provide a range of potential roosting opportunities for bats.

Following the aerial inspection the trees onsite were assessed as follows:

- **None** – T711, T945, H4 & G946.1 due to a lack suitable PRFs these trees were assessed as having negligible potential (‘None’) to support roosting bats. No further surveys are required for these trees.

- **PRF-I** – G946.2, T689, T947, T957, T963-965 were assessed as 'PRF-I'. This means that these trees contain potential roosting features to support individual bats. No further survey work is required, however as a precautionary measure tree with PRF-I features, should be subject to soft felling techniques (as detailed in Section 4) or a pre-commencement inspection by a licensed bat ecologist, to minimise any incidental risk of harm to bats.

- **PRF-M –** T966 was found to contain a PRF suitable to support large numbers of bats or a roost of conservation concern. No bats or evidence of bats was observed across the three survey visits. As such, the feature is not considered to be in use by roosting bats. The feature should be subjected to a pre-commencement aerial inspection by a suitably licence ecologist immediately prior to any arboricultural works or felling.

No bats or any evidence of roosting bats was recorded in any of the other trees on site during the ground level assessment.

If any PRFs are to be removed, compensatory bat boxes should be provided, and additional bat boxes can be provided as an ecological enhancement. Any external lighting in use during the construction works or the operational phase of the development should be designed to avoid light spill onto the higher-quality habitats on-site, principally the hedgerows and treelines, plus any installed bat boxes.

Due to the potential presence of birds nesting within the trees, any tree felling, arboricultural works and vegetation removal works (including enabling works) should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible, a breeding bird nest check can be undertaken immediately prior to the works.

If any trees that have not been surveyed as part of this assessment are due to be felled or subject to arboricultural works, they should be subject to a ground level tree assessment. This survey can be undertaken at any time of the year, however any further surveys would need to be undertaken during the bat survey season (May to September inclusive), if required.

The report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 to 7, which give visual representations of the survey results.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author, surveyors and qualifications

This report has been compiled and written by Kathryn McGrath, BSc, MA, UES Assistant Ecologist.

Other surveyors include:

- Mark Halliwell, MBiol PGDip MCIEEM, UES Senior Ecologist. Mark is licensed by Natural England to disturb, take and handle all species of bats under licence number 2025-86040-CL18-BAT (level 2).

- Harry Fox BSc MRes ACIEEM, UES Ecologist. Harry is listed as an accredited agent on the bat survey licence of Toby Hart (S095644/2). As such, he has been deemed competent to undertake licensable activities such as using a torch and endoscope to survey for bats. Harry is trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level.

- Bethan Beeston BA, UES Sub-contractor. Bethan is listed as an accredited agent on the bat survey licence of Toby Hart (S095644/1). As such, she has been deemed competent to undertake licensable activities such as using a torch and endoscope to survey for bats. Bethan is also trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level.

- Kathryn McGrath BSc MA, UES Assistant Ecologist.

- Ben Cowell MEng, UES Trainee Ecologist, Ben is also trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level.

- Caleb Wilkinson, UES Sub-Contractor. Caleb is also trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level.

All surveyors have the knowledge, skills and experience identified within the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) "Competencies for Species Survey: Bats" (2013) or were under the supervision of a surveyor with the required competencies.

1.2 Survey objectives

United Environmental Services Ltd (UES) was commissioned by Castle Green Homes in to conduct site surveys which include the following activities:

- Undertake a ground level tree assessment to assess the suitability and potential for the trees on site to be used by roosting bats

- Where necessary, conduct subsequent aerial tree inspections to further assess the suitability of potential roosting features within trees and / or to confirm bat presence / absence

- Recommend further surveys, mitigation and compensation, where appropriate

1.3 Proposed development

The proposed development includes construction of residential dwellings along with associated access roads and infrastructure and greenspace.

Trees highlighted by the Tree Constraints Plan from MDlandscape (ref: 442-TCP-T-T-100-112_P01.1), were covered as part of the ground level tree assessment, on the basis that these trees may be removed or subject to arboricultural works to facilitate the development proposals. The original surveys were conducted of the entire site, however, subsequently the development boundary was reduced to the southern field of the site as per site layout drawings (ref: BD_ABRGL_SL02 _Rev D_05/11/2025).

1.4 Structure of the report

This report sets out the methodology, results, and recommendations in relation to a specific bat survey. Recommendations are in line with statutory legislation and planning policy objectives.

The report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 to 7, which give visual representations of the survey results.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

All surveys were carried out to recognised guidelines, timings and weather conditions, with particular reference to Natural England and Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) publications (see references for further information).

The habitats on site and in the surrounding area were also assessed in order to gauge their suitability to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

2.2 Ground-level tree assessment

All trees with the within the survey boundary, as highlighted by the Tree Constraints Plan from mdlandscape (ref: 442-TCP-T-T-100-112_P01.1), were subjected to a ground-level assessment of bat roosting potential. A total of nine trees, two groups of trees and one hedgerow were subjected to a detailed assessment, and have been labelled within the Tree plan provided at Appendix 3.

The ground level tree assessment was carried out on 22nd July 2026 by Mark Halliwell and Kathryn McGrath, using binoculars and a high-powered torch. Where possible, an endoscope was also used to inspect any cavities accessible from ground level. Trees were inspected on all aspects and assessed for their potential to support roosting bats, based on the number and quality of suitable roosting features present, as detailed in BS8596:2015 Surveying for Bats in Trees and Woodland and Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) 4th Edition guidance (2023).

Types of PRFs, as described in Bat Roosts in Trees (Bat Tree Habitat Key, 2018) are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Types of PRFs found in trees

DISEASE & DECAY FEATURES	DAMAGE FEATURES	ASSOCIATION FEATURES	OTHER FEATURES
Woodpecker holes	Lightning strikes	Fluting	Bat boxes
Squirrel holes	Hazard beams	Ivy	Bird boxes
Knot holes	Subsidence cracks		
Pruning cuts	Shearing cracks		
Tear-outs	Transverse snaps		
Wounds	Welds		
Cankers	Lifting bark		
Compression forks	Desiccation fissures		
Butt rots	Frost cracks		

With regards to the presence of PRFs, trees have been categorised according to the following system:

- NONE – No PRFs are known to be present within the tree, and it is unlikely that the tree will contain any PRFs.

- FAR – Further assessment is required to establish if any PRFs are present within the tree, potentially due to the large size or age of the tree or limitations to assess the tree in detail from ground level.
- PRF – The tree is known to contain at least one PRF.

Where PRFs could be fully viewed from ground level, individual PRFs were categorised according to the following system:

- PRF-I – The PRF is only suitable for individual bats or a very small number of bats, either due to the size of the feature or the lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
- PRF-M – The PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

Where accessible, PRFs at ground level were inspected with an endoscope by the licensed ecologist, in order to identify any roosting bats or field signs of bats and to inspect the internal conditions of the PRF. Field signs of bats include:

- Scratches, staining or droppings around entry points or within a cavity
- Presence of bat-fly cases
- Odour
- Smoothing of surfaces around cavity
- Audible chattering / squeaking at dusk or in warm weather (during the active season).

2.3 Aerial tree assessment

Of the trees highlighted by the GLTA as having potential to support roosting bats, only Trees 689, 771, 957 & 963-966 were subject to a further aerial tree assessment. This assessment was undertaken on 8th August 2026 by Harry Fox and Ben Cowell. The follow up inspections were conducted by Dan Smith and Caleb Wilkonson on the 24th of August and Ben Cowell and Bethan Beeston on the 21st of September 2026.

PRFs highlighted by the GLTA that were not fully accessible or inspectable from the ground level were climbed using ropes and harnesses by trained professionals in order in inspect the features more closely using an endoscope.

Based on the quality of features present, potential roosting features were then either discounted as being unsuitable or re-classified using the updated survey information as PRF-I or PRF-M.

2.4 Survey limitations

No limitations were encountered during the survey.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Habitat assessment

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 4.42ha and mainly comprises poor quality modified grassland, in addition to species-rich and other native hedgerows, broadleaved woodland, scattered trees and areas of mixed scrub and bramble scrub.

The habitats immediately adjacent to the site predominantly consist of residential dwellings with linked gardens, which are located directly to the west of the site. The amenity gardens will provide some connectivity for bats, however, generally provide low-quality foraging and commuting opportunities for bats due to their limited extent, high levels of disturbance and artificial lighting. The treelines and hedgerows to the south-east of the site will provide high-quality commuting features and an abundance of foraging opportunities for bats. The A55 borders the site to the east and is a well-lit, major road which does not provide a suitable habitat for bats. However, St Georges Road is located close to the southern site boundary and comprises of a minor road which is lit in places, however the section of St Georges Road to the south of the site is unlit, and the associated mature trees will provide an important commuting feature for bats.

The wider surrounding area predominantly consists of arable and pasture fields. There are pockets of woodland within a 2km radius including a small area of woodland approximately 296m south-west of the site, which will provide commuting, foraging and potential roosting features. In addition, there are two large areas of woodland, Coed Abergele, approximately 727m south-west and Coed y Geufron, 687m south-east of the site. There is a designated special protection area (SPA), Liverpool Bay, approximately 1.64km north of the site; the area is marine based and is of low quality for bats. There are also two sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) nearby. One is adjacent to Liverpool Bay, Traeth Pensarn, and is approximately 1.54km north-west of the site. This site is a pebble beach with a large, vegetated shingle bank and is of low quality for bats. The second, Coeyd y Gopa, is approximately 1.49km west of the site and contains ancient woodland in the northern section. The southern section consists of beech *Fagus sylvatica*, pine *Pinus sp.,* larch *Larix decidua*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, Norway maple *Acer platanoides* and oak *Quercus sp*. This area provides high-quality commuting features and an abundance of foraging opportunities for bats. Lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* species have been recorded using this site.

In summary, the immediate and wider surrounding areas will provide moderate quality habitat for foraging and commuting bats. This is based on the presence of woodland, treelines and hedgerows in a predominantly rural landscape. Furthermore, the numerous trees and buildings in the local area will provide a range of potential roosting opportunities for bats.

3.2 Ground Level Tree assessment

All trees within the survey boundary, as highlighted by the Tree Constraints Plan from MDlandscape (ref: 442-TCP-T-T-100-112_P01.1), were subjected to a ground-level assessment of bat roosting potential. A total of nine trees, two groups of trees and one hedge of trees were subjected to a detailed assessment and have been labelled within the Tree plan provided at Appendix 3.

A summary of the ground level tree assessment results is provided in Table 2 below, and full details of the survey results are provided at Appendix 1 of this report.

Table 2 – Results of the ground level tree assessment

TREE / GROUP NUMBER	POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT ROOSTING BATS FOLLOWING GLTA
T945, G946.1, G968, and H4	NONE
T689, T711, G946.2, T947, T957, T963, T964, T965 and T966	PRF

3.3 Aerial Tree assessment

The GLTA highlighted seven trees as having PRFs that could not be inspected from ground level, all of which were subject to an aerial tree assessment (689, 771, 957 & 963-966).

These trees were climbed using ropes and harnesses by trained professionals in order in inspect the features more closely using an endoscope. Based on the quality of features present, potential roosting features were then either discounted as being unsuitable (None) or re-classified using the updated survey information as PRF-I or PRF-M. A summary of the ATA results is provided at Table 3 below, and full details of the survey results are provided at Appendices 2 & 4 of this report.

Table 3 – Results of the aerial tree assessment

Tree / group number	**Potential to support roosting bats following GLTA**	**Potential to support roosting bats following ATA**
771	PRF	None
689, 957 & 963-965	PRF	PRF-I
966	PRF	PRF-M

4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Evaluation of results

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 4.4ha and mainly comprises poor quality modified grassland as well as species-rich and other native hedgerows, scattered trees and areas of mixed scrub and bramble scrub.

The habitats immediately adjacent to the site predominantly consist of residential dwellings with linked gardens, which are located directly to the west of the site. The amenity gardens will provide some connectivity for bats, however, generally provide low-quality foraging and commuting opportunities for bats due to their limited extent, high levels of disturbance and artificial lighting. The treelines and hedgerows which to the south-east of the site will provide high-quality commuting features and an abundance of foraging opportunities for bats. The A55 borders the site to the east and is a well-lit, major road which does not provide a suitable habitat for bats. However, St Georges Road is located close to the southern site boundary and comprise of a minor road which are lit in places, however the section of St Georges Road to the south of the site is unlit, and the associated mature trees will provide an important commuting feature for bats.

The wider surrounding area predominantly consists of arable and pasture fields. There are pockets of woodland within a 2km radius including a small area of woodland approximately 296m south-west of the site, which will provide commuting, foraging and potential roosting features. In addition, there are two large areas of woodland, Coed Abergele, approximately 727m south west and Coed y Geufron, 687m south east of the site. Coeyd y Gopa, a SSSI, is approximately 1.49km west of the site and contains ancient woodland in the northern section. The southern section consists of beech, pine, larch, wild cherry, Norway maple and oak. This area provides high-quality commuting features and an abundance of foraging opportunities for bats. Lesser horseshoe species have been recorded using this site.

Following the aerial inspection the trees onsite were assessed as follows:

- **None** – T711, T945, H4 & G946.1 due to a lack suitable PRFs, these trees were assessed as having negligible potential (‘None’) to support roosting bats.

- **PRF-I** – G946.2, T689, T947, T957, T963-965 were assessed as ‘PRF-I’. This means that they contain potential roosting features to support individual bats.

- **PRF-M –** T966 was found to contain a feature assessed as suitable to support large numbers of bats or a roost of conservation concern. No bats or evidence of bats was observed across the survey visits. As such, the feature is not considered to be in use by roosting bats.

No bats or any evidence of roosting bats was recorded in any of the surveyed trees on site during the ground level assessment.

If any trees that have not been surveyed as part of this assessment are due to be felled or subject to arboricultural works as part of the development, a further ground level assessment will be required to assess their potential to support roosting bats.

4.2 Mitigation and compensation measures

4.2.1 Mitigation

A summary of the further survey and mitigation requirements for each tree onsite is provided below:

Table 3 – Summary of further survey and mitigation requirements

TREE	FURTHER WORK REQUIRED
None – T711, T945, H4 & G946.	These trees / groups have been assessed as having negligible potential ('None') to support roosting bats. As such, no further survey work or mitigation is required for these trees, with regards to bats.
PRF-I – G946.2, T689, T947, T957, T963-965	These trees have been assessed as 'PRF-I'. This means that they contain potential roosting features to support individual bats. No further survey work is required. However, as a precautionary measure trees with PRF-I features, should be subject to soft felling techniques or a pre-commencement inspection by a licensed bat ecologist, to minimise any incidental risk of harm to bats. Soft felling techniques involve cutting the tree in sections and lowering any section containing PRFs to the ground. Once lowered to the ground, the PRFs should be left facing upwards overnight, before being removed from the site at a minimum of 24 hours later. Alternatively, the features associated with these trees could also be inspected with an endoscope by a suitably licensed ecologist to confirm bat absence immediately prior to the felling of the tree. In the unlikely event that a roosting bat is observed, works must stop immediately until a licence can be secured from Natural Resources Wales to allow the removal of the bat roost.
PRF-M – T966	This tree was assessed as having a feature suitable of supporting multiple bats or roosts of conservation concern. The feature was subject to aerial inspections and no evidence of usage by bats was observed. As such, the feature is not considered to be in use by bats and does not require any further survey work or licencing. As a precautionary measure the feature should be subjected to a pre-commencement aerial inspection by a suitably licence ecologist immediately prior to any arboricultural works or felling.

Inappropriate lighting can sever commuting corridors, degrade foraging habitat and deter bats from roosting. As such, any external lighting in use during the construction works or the operational phase of the development should be designed to avoid light spill onto the higher-quality habitats on-site, principally the hedgerows and treelines. See Appendix 7 for further guidance on external lighting with regards to bats.

4.2.2 Compensation and enhancement

If any trees with bat roosting potential are to be felled or any PRFs with bat roosting potential are to be removed through pruning or any other arboricultural works, compensatory bat boxes should be provided to compensate for the loss of potential roosting opportunities.

Additional bat boxes could be installed to provide an ecological enhancement by increasing the availability of roosting opportunities for bats. Examples of bat boxes that could be affixed to retained trees on site include:

- Schwegler 2F bat box
- Schwegler 1FF bat box
- Schwegler 2FN bat box
- Schwegler 1FS, 2FS or 3FS colony box
- Schwegler 1FW hibernation box.

Bat boxes should be fitted at a height of 4-6 metres on a south-facing aspect, with a clear drop-zone. There should be no clutter around the entrance from surrounding branches.

Any external lighting must be directed away from installed bat boxes, which may require the use of cowling or relocation of the lighting or bat box. See Appendix 4 for further guidance on external lighting with regards to bats.

If should be noted that once bats have occupied a bat box, it can only be disturbed by a licenced ecologist.

4.3 Breeding Birds

Due to the potential for birds to be nesting within trees, any arboricultural work, tree felling, or vegetation clearance should be carried out outside of the nesting bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible and works need to commence during this period, a breeding bird nest check should be undertaken immediately prior to the commencement of works by a suitably qualified ecologist and an ecological clerk of works appointed to oversee the works if considered necessary.

5 CONCLUSION

All trees within the survey boundary, as highlighted by the Tree Constraints Plan from MDLandscape (ref: 442-TCP-T-T-100-112_P01.1), were subjected to a ground-level assessment and (where necessary) an aerial tree assessment of bat roosting potential.

Of the surveyed trees:

- **None** – T711, T945, H4 & G946.1 lack suitable PRFs and were assessed as having negligible potential ('None') to support roosting bats.

- **PRF-I** – G946.2, T689, T947, T957, T963-965 were assessed as 'PRF-I'. This means that they contain potential roosting features to support individual bats. No further surveys are required, however prior to felling or arboricultural works the trees should be subject to a pre-commencement inspection or soft felling techniques.

- **PRF-M –** T966 was assessed as having a feature suitable of supporting multiple bats or roosts of conservation concern. The feature was subject to aerial inspections and no evidence of usage by bats was observed. As such, the feature is not considered to be in use by bats and does not require any further survey work or licencing.

  As a precautionary measure the feature should be subjected to a pre-commencement aerial inspection by a suitably licence ecologist immediately prior to any arboricultural works or felling.

No bats or any evidence of roosting bats was recorded in any of the other trees on site during the ground level assessment.

If any PRFs are to be removed, compensatory bat boxes should be provided, and additional bat boxes can be provided as an ecological enhancement. Any external lighting in use during the construction works or the operational phase of the development should be designed to avoid light spill onto the higher-quality habitats on-site, principally the hedgerows and treelines, plus any installed bat boxes.

Due to the potential presence of birds nesting within the trees, any tree felling, arboricultural works and vegetation removal works (including enabling works) should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible, a breeding bird nest check can be undertaken immediately prior to the works.

If any trees that have not been surveyed as part of this assessment are due to be felled or subject to arboricultural works, then they should be subject to a ground level tree assessment. This survey can be undertaken at any time of the year, however any further surveys would need to be undertaken during the bat survey season (May to September inclusive), if required.

6 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2013). *Competencies for Species Survey: Bats*.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – GLTA survey results

Appendix 1 - Survey results

Site: Land off St Georges Road **Job no:** UES05204/06 **Date:** 22.07.2026 **Surveyors:** Mark Halliwell and Kathryn McGrath

Table 1 – Summary of trees surveyed

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
H4 / SH 95528 77219	Other	Mature / Alive	2 / 0.2	None	–	–	A double hedgerow separating two fields in the east of the site.	Y	–	hedgerow separating two fields in the east of the site. Hawthorn dominant. No PRFs present.	1
G968 / SH 95375 77437	Other – dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*	Mature / Alive	2 / 0.2	None	–	–	A double hedgerow flanking a public right of way within the northern portion of the site.	Y	–	Double hedgerow (Hedgerow 10 and 11 as per UES' PEA report) flanking a public right of way, with hawthorn, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and dog rose *Rosa canina*. Minor fluting noted in some of the hawthorn, but none are considered to be suitable PRFs on the basis they are too small or do not lead to cavities and are exposed. Several disused woodpigeon nests are also noted within this area.	2-4
G946.1/ SH 95264 77305	Crack willow *Salix fragilis*	Mature / Alive	8-15 / 0.15 - 0.5	None	–	PRF 1 – a number of callus rolls but they are closed on the southern limbs approx. 2-3m high.	Situated in the scrub at the edge of the playing fields in the west of the site.	Y	–	Example of PRFs within G946 assessed as having negligible suitability	5 – 11

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
					–	PRF 2 – dense ivy covering main stem - difficult for bats to come in and out- facing west Stems seen - no evidence of PRFs.				to support roosting bats.	
					–	PRF 3 – on north-western branch - split in branch - doesn't go anywhere. 2-3 m high.					
					–	PRF 4 – superficial weld between two limbs extending northwards at a height of approximately 3m. There is no associated cavity and the feature has been assessed as 'None'.					
T689 / SH 95376 76848	Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*	Mature / Alive	16 / 1.49	FAR	–	PRF 1 – tear out on northern aspect of main stem at approximately 6m high.	At southern boundary, between field and road.	Y	Y	Close inspection required. Potential features noted but can't be fully assessed from ground level. Aerial tree inspection required.	14-17
					–	PRF 2 – knothole and peeling bark around wound on western leading limb at approximately 6m high					
					–	PRF 3 – flaking bark on western leading limb at approximately 6m high.					
T711 / SH 95310 77000	Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*	Semi-mature / Alive	15 / 0.27	PRF	–	PRF 1 – stem wound at base of a limb extending north east of main stem. Facing south at a height of Approx 4.5m. Cannot be inspected from ground level	Located in a hedgerow flanking public right of way in the south of the site.	N - can't see northern side	Y	Close inspection required	18-19

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
T945 / SH 95284 77299	Hybrid black poplar *Populus x canadensis*	Mature / Alive	23 / 0.57	None	–	–	Situated within willow scrub at the edge of the playing fields in the west of the site.	Y	–	Mature hybrid black poplar located in willow scrub. No PRFs were noted on the main stem, and the young outer branches that may be impacted by crown reduction. Did not contain any PRFs.	20
G946.2 / SH 95271 77308	Crack willow	Mature / Alive	6 / 0.4	PRF	PRF-I	PRF 1 – small stem wound at a height of 1m on the topside of a limb extending northwards. The entrance has a small diameter of approximately 2cm and extends up into a cavity of same size for 5cm. It is a small feature in a relatively cluttered environment but may still be suitable for individual bats.	Located within group of willows (G946) at the edge of the playing fields in the west of the site.	Y	Y	Single feature present assessed as PRF-I contained within G946.	12 – 13
T947 / SH 95288 77294	Crack willow	Post-mature / Alive	16 / 0.6	PRF	PRF-I	PRF 1 – hazard beam on a limb extending northwards at a height of approx 3m. There is no downward movement towards main stem but there is a cavity that leads into the heart wood away from main stem. The cavity extends for approx. 15cm under the bark which is lifting and allowing light ingress. Assessed as PRF-I The hazard beam itself is approx. 1.5m long and is open such that	Located in scrubland on the edge of the playing field in the west of the site.	Y	Y	–	21

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
						you can see straight through it.					
T957 / SH 95545 77042	Sessile oak	Mature / Alive	14 / 0.66	PRF	–	PRF 1 – callus roll around a dead limb - limb extending of eastern aspect of the stem. Approx 9m high. Facing east.	Located on the south-eastern field border adjacent to a hotel.	N – cannot see the southern aspect on boundary so inspection needed	Y	Close inspection required.	22-23
T963 / SH 95556 77135	Sessile oak	Mature / Alive	15 / 0.67	PRF	PRF-I	PRF 1 –stem wound - deadwood sticking out where limb previously was. Went in 7cm horizontally. 1.5m up facing northwest	Located in the centre of the far eastern arable field.	Y	Y	–	24-26
					–	PRF 2 – wound at bottom of dead limb extending east. Approximately 2m high. Whilst there are no features associated with the deadwood itself there is lifting bark at the base of the deadwood that can't be inspected at ground level				Close inspection required	
T964 / SH 95603 77150	Sessile oak	Mature / Alive	17 / 0.91	PRF	–	PRF 1 – horizontal hazard wound on south facing limb. Approx 4m high. Needs a closer inspection.	Located in the centre of the far eastern arable field.	Y	Y	Close inspection required	27-32
					–	PRF 2 – horizontal limb on south elevation. Approx 6m high.					

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
					–	PRF 3 – possible hazard beam emerging (large crack) on extending north limb. Approx 6m high. Needs closer inspection.					
					–	PRF 4 – wound/hazard beam on north-western limb. Approx 7m high. Closer inspection required.					
					–	PRF 5 – callus roll on southern extending limb. Approx 7m High. Needs closer inspection.					
T965 / SH 95624 77156	Sessile oak	Mature / Alive	16 / 0.79	PRF	–	PRF 1 – possible hazard bean located on a limb at a height of 8m facing south-west. The limb is located within the centre of the crown but is extending southwards. It is not possible to see whether the feature extends in at either the top or bottom of the wound and so a close inspection would be required if this tree is to be felled.	Located within centre of the far eastern arable field.	Y	Y	Close inspection required. Mature sessile oak with several superficial standing deadwood limbs. However, some are associated with PRFs that would require further inspection if they are to be impacted. The tree is also mature and an exploratory climb is recommended.	33-36
					–	PRF 2 – hazard beam on a dead limb at a height of approximately 7m. The limb is extending south-east away from the major limb it is attached to, and the feature is approximately 1m from the major limb. It cannot be determined from					

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
						ground level whether the feature extends down into the dead limb further.					
					–	PRF 3 – tear out on a major limb that is extending vertically from the central union. It is situated at a height of approximately 10m and is facing south-east. The feature is obscured by vegetation, and it cannot be determined from ground level if the feature extends downwards.					
T966 / SH 95632 77160	Sessile oak	Mature / Alive	16 / 0.94	PRF	–	PRF 1 – hazard beam within the centre of the crown. It is on a limb that extends downwards at a height of approximately 10m and is facing south-west. Cannot be inspected from ground level.	Located within the centre of the far eastern arable field.	Y	Y	Close inspection required. Sessile oak with numerous PRFs. There are several examples of superficial standing deadwood, but potentially suitable hazard beams and callus rolls are present and associated with some dead / dying limbs. Whilst most of the features are within the centre of the tree and will likely be unaffected by crown recitation, an exploratory climb is recommended	37-41
					–	PRF 2 – callus roll associated with a dead limb at a height of approximately 4m facing south. The feature looks to extend downwards towards the main stem but requires a close inspection.					
					–	PRF 3 – hazard beam on a downward turning limb that is extending eastwards from a major limb. It is situated at a height of approximately 8m and is					

Tree ref / GPS	Species	Age / health	Height / DBH (m)	Tree assessment (None, FAR, PRF)	PRF classification (PRF-I/PRF-M)	PRF description	Surrounding habitat context	All aspects of the tree seen Y/N	Climbable (only if qualified)	Notes from tree inspection	Photographs
						approximately 4m from the centre of the tree. It cannot be inspected from ground level so requires a further assessment if it is to be removed.					
					–	PRF 4 – callus roll on a major limb that is extending northwards from the stem. The feature is situated at a height of approximately 6m and is facing westwards. It cannot be inspected from ground level and so a further inspection is required if it is to be removed					

Appendix 2 – ATA survey results

Appendix 2 – Aerial Tree Assessment - Survey results

Site: Land off St Georges Road **Job no: UES05204/06** **Dates: 08.08.26, 24.08.26 & 21.09.26** **Surveyors: Harry Fox, Ben Cowell, Bethan Beeston, Daniel Smith and Caleb Wilkinson.**

Table 2 – Summary of aerial assessments.

Tree ref/GPS	Species	PRF type following GLTA	PRF Description	Visit number	Evidence of bats	PRF type following ATA	Photo no.	Survey Notes
T689 / SH 95376 76848	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	FAR	T689.1 - Tear out on northern aspect of main stem at approximately 6m.	1	No	None	15	Feature inspected and no suitable cavity for bats was present.
			T689.2 - Knothole and peeling bark around wound on western leading limb at 6m high.	1	No	PRF-I	16	Knothole extends back approximately 20cm, however much of it has lots of light ingress and little shelter since it is upward facing. Assessed as PRF-I as further back there is suitable conditions for a small number of individual bats.
			T689.3 - Flaking bark on western leading limb at approximately 6m high.	1	No	None	17	No suitable cavities for bats present within the feature.
T711 / SH 95305 76999	Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*	PRF	T711.1 - Stem wound at base of a limb extending northeast of main stem. Facing south at a height of approximately 4.5m.	1	No	None	19	Wound inspected and found to be superficial with no suitable cavity for bats.
T957 / SH 95545 77042	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	PRF	T957.1 - Callus roll around a dead limb - limb extending off the eastern aspect of the stem at 9m high, facing east.	1	No	PRF-I	23	Some sections of callus roll have small cavities (4-7cm) which may support low number of individual bats; however, they are low quality and exposed.

T963 / SH 95556 77135	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	PRF	T963.2 - Wound at bottom of a dead limb extending east. Approximately 2m high. Whilst there are no features associated with the deadwood itself there is lifting bark at the base of the deadwood.	1	No	PRF-I	25	Numerous pieces of flaking bark, however, they are either too large and exposed providing no suitable cavity, or too small and/or upward facing providing no suitable feature for bats.
T964 / SH 95603 77150	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	PRF	T964.1 - Horizontal hazard wound on south facing limb. At approximately 4m high.	1	No	None	28	Feature is well sealed in offering no suitable cavities for bats.
			T964.2 - Horizontal limb on South elevation. At approximately 6m high.	1	No	None	29	Split wood providing crevices however all are too open and exposed to be suitable for bats.
			T964.3 - Possible hazard beam emerging (large crack) on extending north limb. Approx 6m high.	1	No	PRF-I	30	Most of the crevices within wound are too open and exposed, however, there is a suitable gap extending approximately 6cm towards the main stem that is sheltered and suitable.
			T964.4 - Wound/hazard beam on NW limb. At approximately 7m high.	1	No	None	31	No suitable crevices for bats
			T964.5 - Callus roll on southern extending limb. At approximately 7m high.	1	No	PRF-I	32	Cavity extends approximately 6cm towards main stem and provides suitable feature for low numbers of bats.
T965 / SH 95624 77156	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	PRF	T965.1 - Possible hazard bean located on a limb at a height of 8m facing south-west. The limb is located within the centre of the crown but is extending southwards.	1	No	PRF-I	34	4cm wide and 7cm deep cavity extending away from main stem. Assessed as PRF-I.

			T965.2 - Hazard beam on a dead limb at a height of approximately 7m. The limb is extending south-east away from the major limb it is attached to, and the feature is approximately 1m from the major limb.	1	No	None	35	Feature doesn't extend further down the dead branch, therefore it does not contain any suitable cavity for bats.
			T965.3 - Tear out on a major limb that is extending vertically from the central union. It is situated at a height of approximately 10m and is facing south-east. The feature is obscured by vegetation.	1	No	PRF-I	36	Cavity extends 7cm downwards in a wedge shape, approximately 7cm wide at opening. Cavity is upward facing and somewhat exposed.
T966 / SH 95632 77160	Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*	PRF	T966.1 - Hazard beam within the centre of the crown. It is on a limb that extends downwards at a height of approximately 10m and is facing south-west.	1	No	PRF-I	38	Most of wound is too open and exposed, however, there is a tubular cavity extending away from the main stem approximately 13cm long g and 2cm wide
			T966.2 - Callus roll associated with a dead limb at a height of approximately 4m facing south.	1	No	PRF-M	39	1st visit - Cavity extend down towards the main stem for approximately 25cm, with approximately 6cm diameter opening. No evidence of bats.
				2	No			2nd visit - No evidence of bats recorded. An old bird's nest was present.
				3	No			3rd visit - Condition unchanged as per previous visit. No evidence of bats.

			T966.3 - Hazard beam on a downward turning limb that is extending eastwards from a major limb. It is situated at a height of approximately 8m and is approximately 4m from the centre of the tree.	1	No	PRF-I	40	Feature is mostly too open and exposed providing no suitable cavity for bats, however, there is a cavity extending back towards main stem that extends for approximately 8cm that would be suitable for low numbers of bats. Feature assessed as PRF-I
			T966.4 - Callus roll on a major limb that is extending northwards from the stem. The feature is situated at a height of approximately 6m and is facing westwards.	1	No	None	41	Feature inspected and no suitable cavity for bats were present.

Appendix 3 – GLTA tree plan

Bat Ground-Level Tree Assessment - Tree Plan

Site: Land off St Georges Road, Abergele
NGR: SH 95403 77032
Author: Kathryn McGrath
Date: 21/10/2026





Key

- None
  - Tree/ Group assessed as having negligible suitability to support roosting bats
- PRF-I
  - Tree / Group assessed as having suitability to support individual/ low numbers of roosting bats
- PRF-M / PRF
  - Tree/Group assessed as having suitability to support multiple bats OR features are present that cannot be inspected from ground-level
- Development boundary
- Survey boundary

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Appendix 4 – ATA tree plan

Bat Aerial Tree Assessment - Tree Plan

Site: Land off St Georges Road, Abergele
NGR: SH 95404 77029
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 21/10/2026





Key

- None
  - Tree/ Group assessed as having negligible suitability to support roosting bats
- PRF-I -
  Tree / Group assessed as having suitability to support individual/ low numbers of roosting bats
- PRF-M -
  Tree assessed as having suitability to support multiple bats or roosts of high conservation status.
- Development boundary
- Survey boundary

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Appendix 5 – Photograph



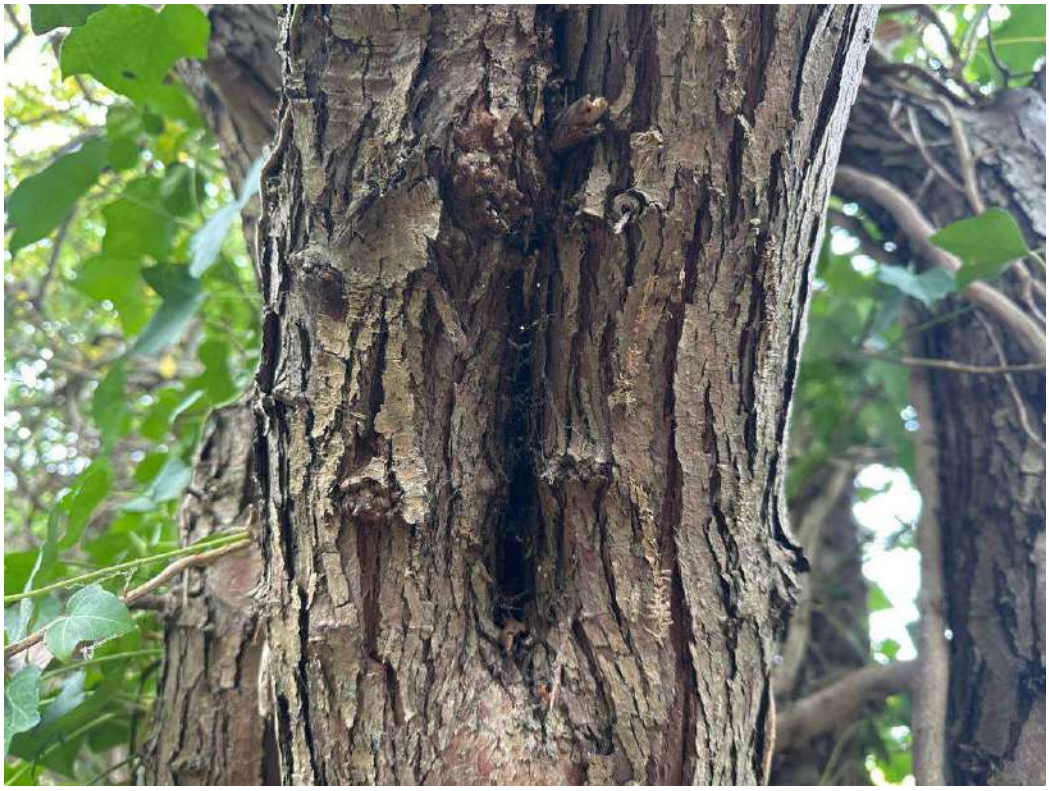
Photograph 1 - Hedgerow 4 (H4) – Hawthorn dominant double hedgerow separating two fields in the north.



Photograph 2 - Group 968 (G968) - Double hedgerow of trees flanking a public right of way within the northern portion of the site.



Photograph 3 – G968 - Double hedgerow of trees.



Photograph 4 – G968 - Minor fluting noted in some of the hawthorn in G968, but none are considered to be suitable PRFs on the basis they are too small or do not lead to cavities and are exposed.



Photograph 5 - Group 946 - Crack willow.



Photograph 6 - Group 946 - Crack willow.



Photograph 7 - Group 946.1 – PRF 1 - Dense ivy covering main stem.



Photograph 8 - Group 946.1 - PRF 2 - A number of callus rolls on the southern limbs.



Photograph 9 - Group 946.1 – PRF 3 - Split in the northwestern branch.



Photograph 10 – G946.1 – Crack willow.



Photograph 11 - G946.1 – PRF 4 - Superficial weld between two limbs extending northwards.



Photograph 12 – G946.2 – crack willow.



Photograph 13 – G946.2 - PRF 1 - Small stem wound that extends into a cavity of approximately 5cm.



Photograph 14 - Tree 689 - Sessile oak.



Photograph 15 - Tree 689 – PRF 1 - Tear out on northern aspect of main stem.



Photograph 16 - Tree 689 – PRF 2 - Knothole and peeling bark around wound on western leading limb.



Photograph 17 - Tree 689 – PRF 3 - Flaking bark on western leading limb.



Photograph 18 - Tree 711 – Ash.



Photograph 19 - Tree 711 – PRF 1 - Stem wound at base of a limb extending northeast of main stem.



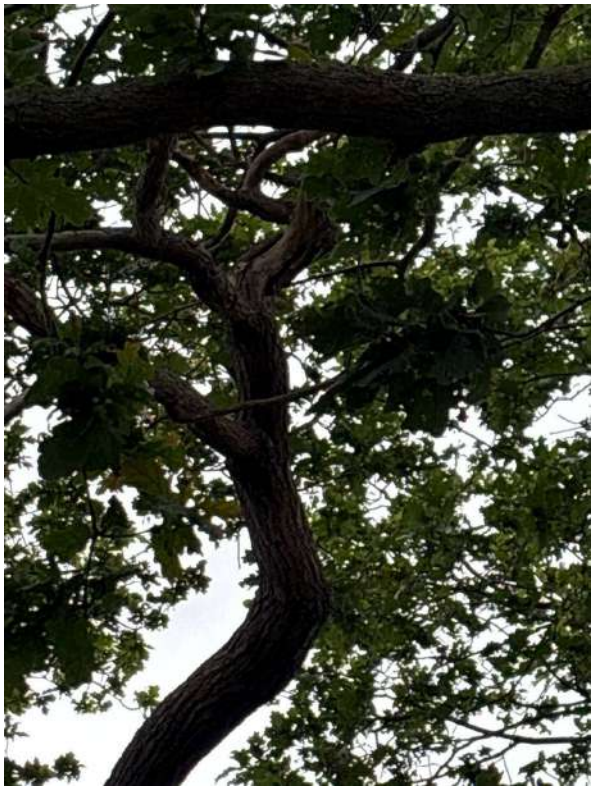
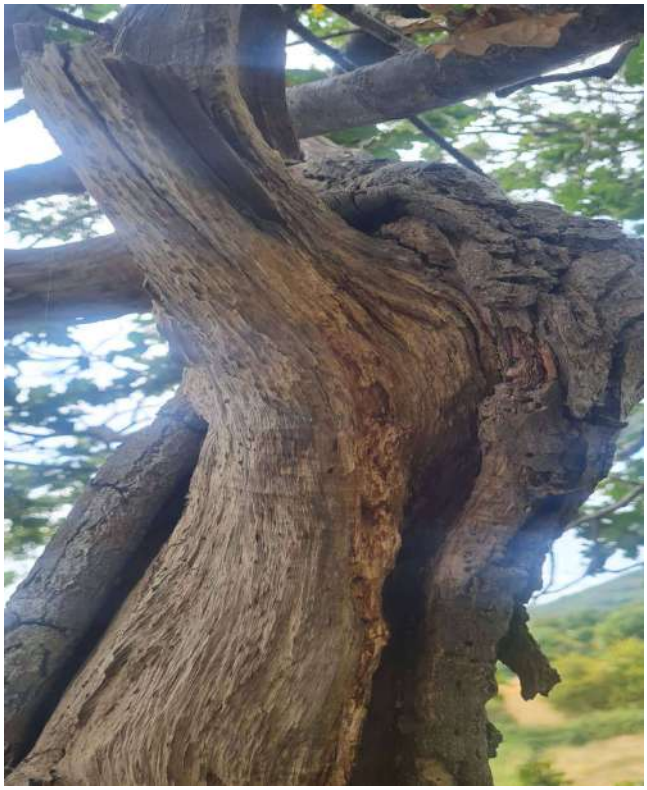
Photograph 20 - Tree 945 - Mature hybrid black poplar located in willow scrub.



Photograph 21 - Tree 947 – PRF 1 – Crack willow species with a hazard beam on a limb extending northwards.



Photograph 22 - Tree 957 – Sessile oak.

Photograph 23 - Tree 957 – PRF 1 - Callus roll around a dead limb.



Photograph 24 - Tree 963 – Sessile oak.



Photograph 25 - Tree 963 – PRF 1 - Stem wound.



Photograph 26 - Tree 963 – PRF-2 - Wound at bottom of dead limb.



Photograph 27 - Tree 964 – Sessile oak.



Photograph 28 - Tree 964 - PRF 1- Horizontal hazard wound.



Photograph 29 - Tree 964 - PRF 2 - Horizontal limb on the south elevation contains split wood providing crevices.





Photograph 30 - Tree 964 - PRF 3 - Possible hazard beam emerging (large crack) on extending north limb.



Photograph 31 - Tree 964 - PRF 4 - Wound/hazard beam on NW limb. Approx 7m high.





Photograph 32 - Tree 964 - PRF 5 - Callus roll on southern extending limb.



Photograph 33 - Tree 965 – Sessile oak.





Photograph 34 - Tree 965 - PRF 1 - hazard bean located on a limb.



Photograph 35 - Tree 965 - PRF 2 – Hazard beam on a dead limb.



Photograph 36 - Tree 965 - PRF 3 - Tear out on a major limb that is extending vertically from the central union.



Photograph 37 - Tree 966 – Sessile oak.





Photograph 38 - Tree 966 – PRF 1 - Hazard beam within the centre of the crown.



Photograph 39 - Tree 966 – PRF 2 - Callus roll associated with a dead limb.



Photograph 40 - Tree 966 – PRF 3 - Hazard beam on a downward turning limb that is extending eastwards from a major limb.



Photograph 41 - Tree 966 – PRF 4 - Callus roll on a major limb that is extending northwards from the stem.

Appendix 6 – External lighting guidance

Lighting scheme in relation to bats

The two most important features of street and security lighting with respect to bats are:

1. The UV component. Low or zero UV installations are preferred to reduce attraction of insects to lighting and therefore to reduce the attraction of foraging bats to these areas.

2. Restriction of the area illuminated. Lighting must be shielded to maintain dark areas, particularly above lighting installations, and in many cases, land adjacent to the areas illuminated. The aim is to maintain dark commuting corridors for foraging and commuting bats. Bats avoid well lit areas, and these create barriers for flying bats between roosting and feeding areas.

UV characteristics:

Low

- Low pressure Sodium Lamps (SOX) emit a minimal UV component.
- High pressure Sodium Lamps (SON) emit a small UV component.
- White SON, though low in UV, emit more than regular SON.

High

- Metal Halide lamps emit more UV than SON lamps, but less than Mercury lamps
- Mercury lamps (MBF) emit a high UV component.
- Tungsten Halogen, if unfiltered, emit a high UV component
- Compact Fluorescent (CFL), if unfiltered, emit a high UV component.
- Variable
- Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) have a range of UV outputs. Variants are available with low or minimal UV output.
- Glass glazing and UV filtering lenses are recommended to reduce UV output.

Street lighting

- Low-pressure sodium or high-pressure sodium must be used instead of mercury or metal halide lamps. LEDs must be specified as low UV. Tungsten halogen and CFL sources must have appropriate UV filtering to reduce UV to low levels.
- Lighting must be directed to where it is needed and light spillage avoided. Hoods must be used on each lamp to direct light and contain spillage. Light leakage into hedgerows and trees must be avoided.
- If possible, the times during which the lighting is on overnight must be limited to provide some dark periods. If the light is fitted with a timer this must be adjusted to reduce the amount of 'lit time' and provide dark periods.

Security and domestic external lighting

The above recommendations concerning UV output and direction apply. In addition:

- Lighting should illuminate only ground floor areas. Light should not leak upwards to illuminate first floor and higher levels.
- Lamps of greater than 2000 lumens (150 W) must not be used.
- Movement or similar sensors must be used. They must be carefully installed and aimed, to reduce the amount of time a light is on each night.
- Light must illuminate only the immediate area required, by using as sharp a downward angle as possible. Light must not be directed at or close to bat roost access points or flight paths from the roost. A shield or hood can be used to control or restrict the area to be lit.
- Wide angle illumination must be avoided as this will be more disturbing to foraging and commuting bats as well as people and other wildlife.
- Lighting must not illuminate any bat bricks and boxes placed on buildings, trees or other nearby locations.

Taken from the Bat Conservation Trust

Appendix 7 – Statutory Planning Context

STATUTORY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Ecological assessments

Ecological assessments play an important part within the planning context; they include an initial assessment which highlights any specific interests of a site. From the initial site assessment, the surveyor assesses the suitability of habitats within the site to support protected species and makes recommendations for further survey works if required. The following paragraphs provide a brief interpretation of the legislative protection that is relevant to the findings of this report.

Habitats

Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish, review and revise lists of types of habitats and species in Wales which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity. The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the habitats published in these lists, and encourage others to take such steps.

Bats

In the United Kingdom, all species of bat and their roosts are afforded full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the "Habitats Regulations"). The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the domestic implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) and was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture a bat
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection (even if the bat is not present at the time)
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead bat, any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat

Under UK law, a bat roost is *any structure or place which any wild [bat] … uses for shelter or protection*. As bats often reuse the same roosts, legal opinion is that a roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time of the activity taking place.

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

If an activity is likely to result in any of the above offences, a licence can be applied for to derogate from the protection afforded. These licences must provide appropriate mitigation and are issued by NRW.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 also lists the following bat species as species of principle importance under Section 7:

- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
- Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*
- Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Birds

All wild birds, their nests and young are protected throughout England and Wales by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or damage or destroy the nest or eggs of breeding birds. The legislation applies to all bird species, common and rare.

In addition to the protection afforded to all wild birds, more vulnerable species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive enhanced protection when breeding. Schedule 1 species, including their dependent young, are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst at or near the nest, in addition to the protection afforded the more common species.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 offers further protection to the nests of some species that regularly re-use their nests, even when the nests are not in use.

The leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status' of 244 UK bird species. "Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds" is the most recent publication summarising their findings. Three lists, Red, Amber and Green, have been produced based on the most up-to-date evidence available and criteria include conservation status at global and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. These lists are a valuable resource when considering conservation priorities.

Planning Policy

National planning guidance is issued in the form of Planning Policy Wales (PPW - 2018). The most relevant sections are included in Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places. This chapter details the policies on issues such as the protection of trees, woodlands, species, and designated sites. The document is free and available to view online