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PR2 2YB

**DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
**SITE:** Land at Former Waterside Pub, Bury  
**REFERENCE:** UES02435/06

Dear Kailey,

### **Aerial Tree Assessment (ATA) – Letter of Findings**

I am writing to provide a summary of the findings from the ATA survey undertaken by United Environmental Services (UES) at the Land at Former Waterside Pub, Summerseat, Bury.

A ground-level tree assessment (GLTA) was undertaken on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 during an updated preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) walkover (see report UES02435/04). The walkover considered two mature trees onsite to have potential to support roosting bats (T8 – London plane *Platanus x hispanica* and T11 - sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*). Paragraph 4.2.1 in the report recommends that if the trees are to be removed to facilitate the development, aerial tree inspections should be conducted of the two trees identified as having potential to support roosting bats. These inspections can be undertaken at any time of year. If any potential roosting features are found to still be suitable following the inspections, bat presence / absence surveys may be required (May to September inclusive).

The development proposals include the erection of the erection of 5 no. dwellings with associated road and landscaping and an upgraded vehicular entrance off Kay Street. As part of the development, T8, one of the mature trees identified from the GLTA will be felled. T11 which was also identified from the GLTA will not be impacted by the proposed development. T8 was inspected aerially on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This assessment was carried out to be submitted for planning permission reference 69913 which will be reviewed by Bury Council.

### **Habitat assessment**

The land parcel has an area of approximately 0.2ha and is dominated by hardstanding with encroaching ephemeral / short perennial vegetation. The River Irwell runs offsite along the northern site boundary. There is also an area of woodland within the eastern section of the site, a thin strip of which runs along the southern site boundary. Other habitats present on site include scattered trees, introduced shrubs and tall ruderal vegetation.

## Survey Methodology

The GLTA in February 2023 was conducted by Alasdair Grubb BSc, UES Senior Ecologist. Alasdair Grubb BSc ACIEEM, UES Senior Ecologist. Alasdair is licensed by Natural England to disturb, take and handle all species of bats under licence number 2022-10906-CL18-BAT (level 2).

The ATA in October 2023 was conducted by Daniel Smith BSc MScRes, UES Ecologist and Mark Halliwell MBiol, UES Senior Ecologist. Daniel is licensed by Natural England to survey all species of bats by observation using an artificial light under licence number 2022-10366-CLS-BAT (level 1). Daniel is trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level. Daniel has been approved as competent to conduct bat tree inspections by Toby Hart BSc MCIEEM PIEMA, UES Managing Director. Toby is licensed by Natural England to disturb, take and handle all species of bats under licence numbers 2015-15898-CLS-CLS (level 3) and 2015-15899-CLS-CLS (level 4). Daniel is listed as an accredited agent on Toby's licence, which permits him to conduct licensable works on his behalf without his supervision, such using an endoscope. Mark is licensed by Natural England to survey all species of bats by observation using an artificial light under licence number 2020-45183-CLS-CLS (level 1). Mark is also trained in tree climbing and aerial rescue to CS38 level and is listed as an accredited agent on Toby Hart's licence.

The external inspection of the trees on site were carried out from the ground level using a high-powered torch and binoculars to investigate suitable roosting features where present from all accessible aspects. The objective of the survey was to find, identify PRFs and record any signs of bat use, for example:

- Bat droppings
- Feeding remains
- Grease staining / urine marks
- Corpses or skeletons

The GLTA highlighted suitable PRFs which were above ground level, then further inspections of impacted trees (T8) were climbed using ropes and harnesses by trained professionals in order to inspect the features more closely.

## Results

The tree is numbered as per DEP's Arboricultural Report.

**T8:** A mature London plane located at (grid reference [GR]: SD 79380 15061), which stands at a height of approximately 10m (see Appendix 1 – Photograph; Photograph 1). PRFs were inspected and found to be superficial and unsuitable to support roosting bats. The first PRF is a stem cavity on the northern aspect at approximately 4m high (Photograph 2). The cavity was shallow, very wet and full of yellow slugs *Limacus flavus*. The second PRF is a callus roll on the northern aspect at approximately 7m high (Photograph 3). Similar to the first PRF, the second PRF was shallow, very wet and full of yellow slugs. **Therefore, the tree is considered to have negligible potential to support roosting bats.**

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

No evidence of bats was recorded during the ATA. The assessment has highlighted that T8 has negligible potential to support roosting bats. In accordance with BCT guidelines, no further survey work is required for the trees that have been assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats and as such the felling of T8 will have no direct impact on bats or bat roosts. T8 can be felled without restriction, with regards to bats, as can all other trees on site that were not highlighted as containing any PRFs for bats.

It is understood that T11 will not be impacted by the proposed development. Therefore, an aerial assessment is not required; however, if the plans change and T11 is to be impacted, an aerial assessment must be undertaken.

It should be noted that all wild birds, their nests and young are protected throughout England 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. All trees due to be impacted by the proposed development have the potential to support nesting birds in the spring and summer. As such, it is recommended that all proposed works take place outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive). If felling works are to take place into this period, a pre-commencing nesting bird check is required by a suitably experienced ecologist. Furthermore, it should be made clear that some birds nest all year. As such, if any nesting birds are encountered during the felling of these trees all works should stop and UES must be contacted at **01565 757788**.

If you require anything else or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or another member of staff at UES.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Smith BSc MScRes  
Ecologist  
United Environmental Services Ltd

## Appendix 1 - Photographs



Photograph 1 – T8.



Photograph 2 – The superficial stem cavity at approximately 4m.



Photograph 3 – The superficial callus roll at approximately 7m.