

For: Property Surv

Site: St Agnes Parish Club, 82 Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 5SR

National Grid Reference: SJ 44711 90615

Date of Issue: 18th August 2026

Re: GLTA of Sycamore Trees at St Agnes Parish Club

Document Context

As part of an ongoing planning application at St Agnes Parish Club (**Ref.:** 26/00079/DEMCON¹) concerning the prior notification for the demolition of a single storey building Tyrer Ecological Consultants were contracted by Property Surv to undertake a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of two sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) trees located to the north of St Agnes Parish Club. Tyrer Ecological have had previous involvement with the development having previously produced the two previous reports:

- Inspection & Assessment in Relation to Bats & Breeding Birds (*Tyrer Ecological Consultants, October 2021*)
- Dusk Survey Results (*Tyrer Ecological Consultants, June 2025*)

The survey of the two sycamore trees was required following comments received by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) which are as follows:

“Clarification of works and the effect on the two mature Sycamore trees on the northern boundary of the site was previously requested. No further information has been provided. As per the previous response clarification is required of the effect the demolition will have on these trees including whether these trees as the proposed site for receptor roost boxes are suitable. As previously requested, an updated PRA/Ground level tree assessment is required which assesses impacts to trees on site.”

It is understood that the two sycamore trees will be retained post-demolition and as such this survey aims to understand if any in-direct impacts of the demolition and long-term changes in the surrounding environment will impact any native wildlife that the trees may support.

¹ See: <https://planapp.knowsley.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Methodology

The site was re-attended on the 13th August 2026 in warm, dry conditions (24°C), wind 1/12 (Beaufort scale), 5% cloud, by the following surveyor (see **Table 1**).

Table 1 – Site surveyor credentials

Name	Description of most relevant credentials
Miss. K. Judson ACIEEM	• Senior Ecologist with 5 years training and experience, • BSc (Hons) Biology; MSc Conservation Management, • Accredited agent on the Natural England Great Crested Newt: CL08 Class 1 licence (2025-82680-SCI-CL08) of Mr. J. Pescod ACIEEM, • Accredited agent on the Natural England Class 2 bat licence of Mrs. K. Wilding (2025-84395-CL18-BAT), • Accredited agent on the Natural England Barn Owl Licence of Mrs. K. Wilding (CL294-00276), • Holder of a FISC Level 5 (2022) (Botanical competency), • Meets the requirements of CIEEM's Competency Framework Section S (Surveying) to Capable or higher level.

Criteria for roost assessment are based upon the determinants given in the Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023):

Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023), states:

“The guidelines should be interpreted and adapted on a case-by-case basis according to site-specific factors and the professional judgement of an experienced ecologist. The questions should not be whether the guidelines were followed, but were the defined objectives of the surveys met? Where examples are used in the guidelines, they are descriptive rather than prescriptive.”

The site was assessed for bats; a daytime bat walkover (DBW) was undertaken to observe, assess and record any habitats or features suitable for usage by bats, either as commuting, foraging or roosting provision. Wider connectivity to other habitats was also considered during the DBW.

Trees would be subject to a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) using equipment such as close-focus binoculars and a high powered-torch. Potential roost features (PRFs) can include woodpecker holes, rot holes, hazard beams, other vertical or horizontal cracks or splits in stems and branches, partially decayed lifted bark, knot holes, man-made holes, tear-outs, cankers in which cavities have developed, other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots, double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark, gaps between overlapping stems or branches, partially detached climbing species with stem diameters in excess of 50mm or pre-existing bat / bird boxes. These PRFs can then be determined as PRF-I or PRF-M, dependent on their suitability for individual / low numbers of bats or their capability to host multiple bats. See **Figure 1** below for BCT extract on tree roost suitability criteria:

Table 4.2. Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees on proposed development sites for bats, to be applied using professional judgement.	
Suitability	Description
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present

Figure 1 – BCT extract on tree roost suitability criteria

Factors considered during the preliminary roost assessment include:

- Practical experience of the surveyor,
- Knowledge of bat species relevant to the site location and geographical range,
- Nature of the immediate / surrounding habitat in relation to foraging opportunities,
- Presence / absence of roost potential,
- Value and types of roost potential, if present (i.e. – maternity, hibernation, transitional).

The trees on site were inspected for evidence of nesting and suitability for relevant species. Bird species observed and heard were recorded on site, and a search was made for nest material, or areas suitable for nesting – this can take the form of searching structures, woody vegetation, semi-aquatic vegetation such as reeds and / or ground flora. Elevations of any buildings or structures on site were inspected for evidence of birds that show a high dependency upon built structures, many of which are in a state of decline. These might include the following species for example (list non-extensive):

- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red status
- House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): BoCC red status
- House martin (*Delichon urbica*): BoCC red status
- Swift (*Apus apus*): BoCC red status

Limitations

The survey took place within the bat active season (broadly acknowledged to be May – September), therefore, survey timings are not considered to be a limitation in relation to bats.

The survey was conducted within the breeding bird season, when evidence of nesting and other breeding behaviours can be most readily identified.

In considering all potential survey constraints, no significant limitations were experienced that might adversely influence the results, conclusions, and recommendations of this report.

Survey Results

Bats

No obvious PRFs were identified by the surveyor on any of the other trees onsite, with each devoid of any features that would offer any crevice or roosting potential. A single wound where a limb had torn off is present on the southern elevation of the eastern tree however, this feature is located at eye-level and hence easily inspected which was found to be conclusively non-extensive. As such, both sycamore trees, locations of which are presented within **Figure 2**, were assessed as pertaining to a bat roost suitability of '**None**' in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023).



Figure 2 – *Location of trees subject to GLTA at St Agnes Parish Club*

The trees, and surrounding site, being located in proximity to a road and sub-urban infrastructure with limited foraging resources and high levels of disturbance is considered to offer '**Low**' value commuting and foraging habitat for bats.

All trees should be considered of value to commuting and foraging bats, whereby they act as landmarks for navigation and foci around which invertebrate prey species gather.

Birds

In relation to birds, no current or historic nesting evidence was found in either of the trees that suggest use of the sycamore trees by birds. Nonetheless, both trees are considered viable nesting platforms for birds throughout the breeding season.

Recommendations / Conclusions

Bats

All of the trees on site are duly categorised as pertaining to a bat roost suitability of '**None**', in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023). See **Figure 3** for a relevant BCT guidelines extract.

Table 4.2. Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees on proposed development sites for bats, to be applied using professional judgement.	
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NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any
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Figure 3 – BCT extract on tree roost suitability criteria

The site prides '**Low**' value commuting and foraging habitat for bats, this, in combination with the low impact nature of the proposals, suggests that a nighttime bat walkover (NBW) is not deemed necessary.

No further surveys in relation to bats and trees are applicable at the sycamore trees at St Agnes Parish Club.

Installation of overly harsh artificial lighting as part of any development that exceeds current levels may have a negative impact upon foraging / commuting bats in the landscape, subject to their presence, particularly if increased light spillage occurs in areas that are currently free from illumination such as sycamore mature trees. A bat-sensitive lighting plan is therefore recommended in order to avoid potential impacts to bats. Several options to consider have been listed below, though the reader is referred to the Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night' guidelines (August 2023) for further information.

Appropriate luminaire specifications: Light sources, lamps, LEDs and their fittings come in a myriad of different specifications which a lighting professional can help to select. However, the following should be considered when choosing luminaires and their potential impact on Key Habitats and features:

- All luminaires should lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, compact fluorescent sources should not be used.
- LED luminaires should be used where possible due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
- A warm white light source (2700Kelvin or lower) should be adopted to reduce blue light component.
- Light sources should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012).
- Internal luminaires can be recessed (as opposed to using a pendant fitting) where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
- Waymarking inground markers (low output with cowls or similar to minimise upward light spill) to delineate path edges.

- Column heights should be carefully considered to minimise light spill and glare visibility. This should be balanced with the potential for increased numbers of columns and upward light reflectance as with bollards.
- Only luminaires with a negligible or zero Upward Light Ratio, and with good optical control, should be considered - See ILP GN01.
- Luminaires should always be mounted horizontally, with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt.
- Where appropriate, external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors and set to as short a possible a timer as the risk assessment will allow. For most general residential purposes, a 1 or 2 minute timer is likely to be appropriate.
- Use of a Central Management System (CMS) with additional web-enabled devices to light on demand.
- Use of motion sensors for local authority street lighting may not be feasible unless the authority has the potential for smart metering through a CMS.
- The use of bollard or low-level downward-directional luminaires is strongly discouraged. This is due to a considerable range of issues, such as unacceptable glare, poor illumination efficiency, unacceptable upward light output, increased upward light scatter from surfaces and poor facial recognition which makes them unsuitable for most sites. Therefore, they should only be considered in specific cases where the lighting professional and project manager are able to resolve these issues.
- Only if all other options have been explored, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. However, due to the lensing and fine cut-off control of the beam inherent in modern LED luminaires, the effect of cowls and baffles is often far less than anticipated and so should not be relied upon solely.

Birds

In relation to wider breeding bird species, whilst no direct evidence of current or historic breeding bird behaviour was identified at the site, both trees off viable nesting which could be utilised within the nesting bird season of March – August, inclusive.

NB: *All wild birds (with only minor exceptions) and their nests whilst being built or containing eggs or dependant young are protected from destruction, damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is a punishable offence to interfere in any way with an active nest.*

Whilst the sycamore trees are at present understood to be retained and remain un-impacted by the proposals, in the then the proposals change the following recommendations should be adhered to.

Any works impacting upon any of the above areas of nesting potential should therefore be carried out outside of the breeding bird season, typically March – August inclusive. For works within the breeding bird season, any areas that can support nesting birds should be checked by a professional Ecologist for nesting birds within 48 hours or less prior to works commencing.

Point 3.24 of the British Standards Publication 42020:2013 defines a professional ecologist as: *“a person who has, through relevant education, training or experience, gained recognised qualifications and expertise in the field of ecology and environmental management.”*

Where / if active nests are / have been located by the Ecologist, then any works which may affect them would have to be delayed until the young have fledged and the nest has been abandoned naturally, this can be aided, for example, via implementation of appropriate buffer zone(s) around the nest site (typically 5 – 10 metres) in which no disturbance is permitted until the nest is no longer in use. This would have to be coordinated through the expert judgement of the professional ecologist and species pending.

We can confirm that the contents of this document have been collated using the combined expert knowledge and experience of Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd, and thus this letter can be relied upon as an addition/supporting document to the existing ecological reports issued in relation to the works. For any enquiries or if any information is required, please contact Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd on any of the specified mediums atop this letterhead.

The contents of this document can be relied upon and have been presented in accordance with best practice guidance, and all available survey data at the site to date.

Kind regards,



Miss. K. Judson (Senior Ecologist) (18/08/2026)

Appendix I: Supporting Imagery



Plate 1 – Non-extensive feature on eastern tree

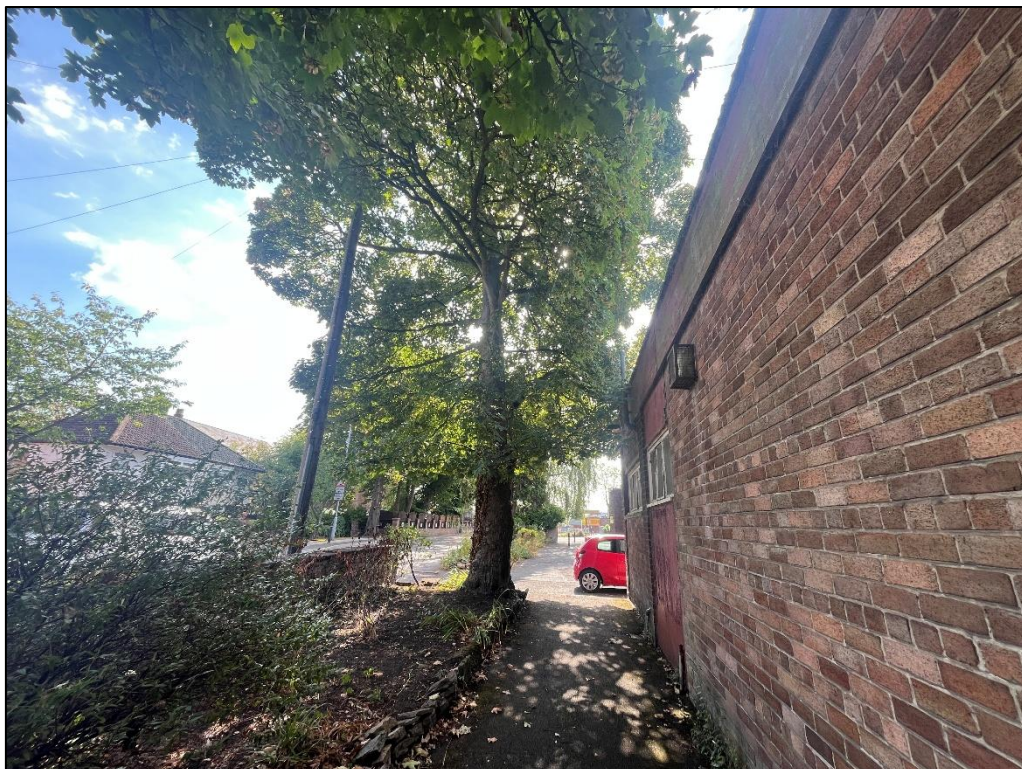


Plate 2 – Character of the eastern tree and surrounding habitat



Plate 3 – Character of the western tree



Plate 4 – Character of the eastern tree and surrounding habitat