

DYE HOUSE, PRESCOT

Tree Bat Roost Assessment Report

November 2023



Report Control Sheet

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Group D Developments Ltd to undertake a Ground-Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of trees to be removed at Dye House, Prescot. The Arboricultural Method Statement (Mulberry, September 2023) was used to inform the tree removal at the site.

1.1.2. The author of this report is Olivia Collington BSc (Hons), MEnvSc, CEnv Director at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. Olivia is highly experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning management plans.

1.2. LOCATION

1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the site location. The site is located within Prescot, a town and civil parish within the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley in Merseyside, England. It is situated north of the M57 and Liverpool Road and south of the A58 road.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



1.3. OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. The objectives of the GLTA are as follows:

- Identify any areas of bat roosting potential within the building
- Assess the value of the building for roosting bats
- Search for signs of bats
- Provide recommendations on any further surveys or mitigation required for bats

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. DESK STUDY

- 2.1.1. An initial desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken to collate baseline data. The desk study included:
- Review of aerial and OS maps for habitat information.
 - Review of potential habitat links on and off site, to determine the potential zone of influence of the proposed development.

2.2. GROUND-LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1. A GLTA of the site was undertaken on 8th November 2023 by Caitlin O'Connor, Assistant Ecologist, and Olivia Collington who holds a Class I Bat Licence (Reference: 2020-46960-CLS-CLS). The survey focused on trees that will require removal to facilitate works.
- 2.2.2. The survey was undertaken following guidance set out in Collins (2023). This includes undertaking a detailed inspection of any features to compile information on potential roosting features (PRFs) and potential access points. A search for field signs of bats (i.e. droppings, urine stains and feeding remains) was also completed. The use of binoculars and torches assisted with the survey.
- 2.2.3. The site was assessed as per categories listed in Table 4.2 and 6.2 Collins (2023) and reproduced below.

Assessment Criteria for Bat Roosting Potential

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

Table 6.2. Guidelines for categorising the potential suitability of PRFs on a proposed development site for bats, to be applied using professional judgement.

Suitability	Description
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

2.3. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 2.3.1. There were no limitations throughout the surveys. By the nature of a GLTA, only features visible from ground level can be observed, and therefore any features at height could have been missed.

3. SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT

3.1.1. See Table 3.1 for the results of the GLTA relating to trees which were found to provide bat roosting potential.

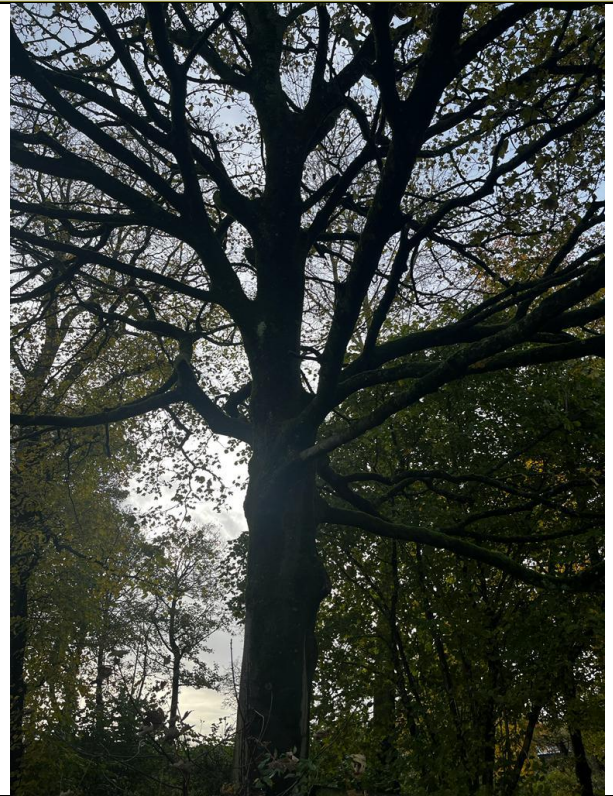
Table 3.1 PRA of Trees

Tree	Photograph
T1 – Willow PFR (I) – No obvious features but lose bark present and tree mature and as such at least one PRF is likely present.	
T6 – Sycamore NONE – No opportunities for PRFs	

T7 – Lime PRF (I) – Split stem approx. 5 m high, small knot holes which don’t appear to create a significant gap, though one on southern elevation appeared to host minor cavity.	
Tree in G3 – Poplar PRF (I) - One knot hole at approx. 8 m height on southern aspect.	

T8 – Sycamore

PRF (I) – Knot hole located at approx. 5 m height as well as small area of loose bark.

**G4 – 5 x sycamore**

PRF (I) – Limited visibility though all trees shown to hold loose bark and minor opportunities for roosting bats.



G8 – 2 x Sycamore

PRF (I) – lose bark and knot hole.



4. RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

- 4.1.1. The following trees to be removed were found to host PRFs suitable for individual bats: T1, T7, G3, T8, G4, G8.
- 4.1.2. The most pragmatic way to proceed will be to remove the trees using Section Felling technique as detailed in Section 6.5 of the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2023). This will include utilising the section felling technique (which involves practises like removing limbs separately and lowering them to the ground and then leaving for 24 hours before clearing).
- 4.1.3. No further mitigation is required for T6 which was found to be unsuitable for roosting bats.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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