

Mr Rob Meynell
JDRM Architects
Otherplace Lofts
11 Jew Street
Brighton
BN1 1UT

Our ref: A5104/MB

Date: 23rd March 2022

Dear Rob,

Re: Tree Inspection for Bats - Durban Road, Bognor Regis

Following your recent request, I can confirm that we have undertaken an inspection of the three trees adjacent to the Durban Road site to assess their potential for roosting bats.

We undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey of the site on October 2021 and provided the results of the survey in a report (Encon Associates Ltd Report no: A5104: *Ecological Appraisal - Proposed Residential Development - Durban Road, Bognor Regis, October 2021*).

The presence of three white willow *Salix alba* trees to the north of the site was noted in this report and they were considered to be of local ecological value. The trees lie outside the site boundary and at the time we understood that they would not be affected by the proposals. However, I now understand that they may require felling and/or trimming/pollarding. Therefore, we have now undertaken an assessment of these trees for their potential for use by roosting bats.

The site was visited by Matt Clark BSc (hons) and Claire Clark BSc (hons) ACIEEM (both licensed bat surveyors) on 4 March and 17 March 2022. The three willow trees were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats in accordance with best practice methodology (*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition*, published by the Bat Conservation Trust). The initial visit comprised a ground-level inspection to identify potential roost features such as rot holes, woodpecker holes, lifted bark, damaged limbs, etc. A woodpecker hole was identified on the westernmost of the three trees, approximately 2.5m from the ground, on the southern side of the trunk. Consequently, a second visit was undertaken to inspect this hole for evidence of bats (such as staining, droppings, the presence of live or dead bats, etc) using an endoscope, with a ladder for access.

No evidence of current bat use was found. However, the hole was being used by blue tits *Cyanistes caeruleus*, which were in the process of constructing a nest.

The tree is not currently being used by bats. However, the rot hole remains a suitable feature and therefore this should be reinspected prior to any works to the tree, to ensure it has not subsequently been occupied. The tree does contain an active blue tit nest. The nests, eggs and nestlings of all wild birds are protected from disturbance, damage and destruction under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Therefore, no works can take place to this tree until the nestlings have fledged. We also recommend that works to the adjacent trees are delayed in order to ensure the nest is not disturbed.

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I hope this provides you with sufficient information, however if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Liam Russell CEcol MCIEEM

For and on behalf of Encon Associates Ltd.

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