



23 August 2021

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By Email Only

Katherine Richards
Foreman Homes
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Hampshire
SO31 1BX

Our ref: RS/9709C/RS

Dear Katherine:

Land at Church Lane, Climping: Summary of Bat Tree Climbing Survey (Aerial Inspection)

Phlorum staff were present at land west of Church Lane, Climping (hereafter referred to as "the site") on 18th August 2021 in order to conduct aerial bat roost inspections of suitable trees on-site. The weather conditions were overcast with a light rain and wind.

Background

The Preliminary (ground based) Tree Roost Assessment was conducted by Phlorum on 22nd February 2021.

The site contained three trees scheduled for removal (all in G13):

- T7 -pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*),
- T8 – ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and
- T9- ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

One was considered **high** (T9) and two were considered to provide a **moderate** (T7, T8) potential for roosting bats.

As a result, it was recommended that further surveys are undertaken on the trees with potential roosting features. These could either be through emergence/re-entry surveys or by tree climbing assessments, where appropriate.

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Aerial Tree Survey

The aerial tree climbing survey was undertaken by suitably qualified ecologists: Richard Schofield and Eugenia Siccardi. Richard and Eugenia are qualified in Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue (NPTC units 206 and 306 - formerly CS38). Richard also holds a level 1 bat licence (CL17).

The aerial inspection was carried out under accepted guidance¹ and detailed information of each potential roosting feature (PRF) was recorded. This included the approximate height above the ground, aspect, and cavity dimensions. The information obtained during the tree survey was used to reassess the potential of the trees to support roosting bats.

Figure 1 which shows the approximate location of Trees 1 to 27. The bulleted points are provided in Table 1:

- ❖ T7 (English oak) – **moderate** roosting potential. Two rot holes inspected and no bats were seen roosting within the tree at the time of the survey. The first rot hole was facing north-east and was 5x5cm. The second rot hole was also facing north-east and was 5x5cm. This tree has been reassessed as having a **low** potential for roosting bats.
- ❖ T8 (ash) – The tree, considered as **moderate** roosting potential, was aurally inspected. The southern knothole of 2cm x 2cm was investigated; no bats or sign of roosting were seen. This tree has been reassessed as having a **low** potential for roosting bats.
- ❖ T9 (ash) – The tree, considered as **high** roosting potential. Two rot hole present both about 15x8cm on the north side. The lower hole was 3m from the ground, was inspected using troch, and no bats were found. The second hole was 3.5m high on the north side, and again no bats were detected. This tree has been reassessed as having a **low** potential for roosting bats.

¹ BTHK (2020). *Bat Tree Habitat Key – 4th Edition*. AEcol, Bridgewater.

Table 1: Photographs of the Trees at the Climbing site

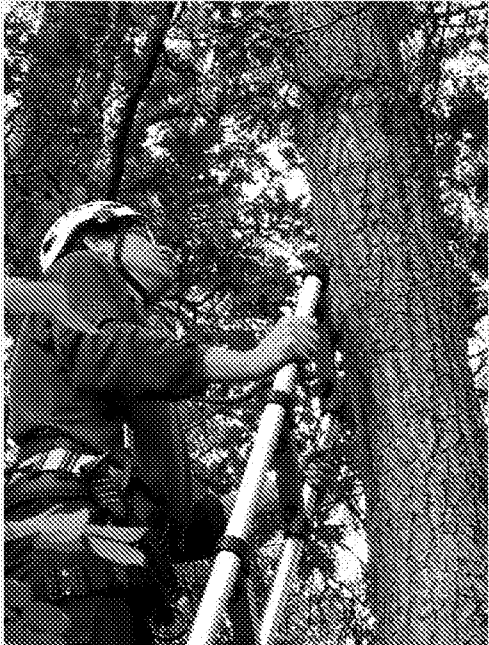
Photo No.	Description	Photograph
1	Aerial inspection of Tree 8 (T8).	
2	Initial inspection of oak tree	

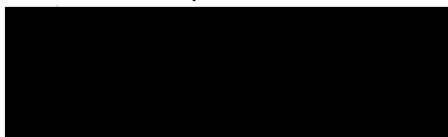
Photo No.	Description	Photograph
2	Inspection of T9 ash.	

It is recommended that all the trees with a **low** potential for roosting bats on-site are re-inspected just before their removal (maximum 1 week before) to ensure no bats have moved into any of PRFs during the time between this inspection and their scheduled removal. We recommend that they are soft felled under a watching brief with a suitably qualified ecologist present who will guide the works.



Trees with a **low** potential for roosting bats do not require emergence/re-entry surveys before their removal following best practice guidelines². If a bat is found all works must cease and emergence/re-entry surveys must be carried out in order to obtain a licence from Natural England.

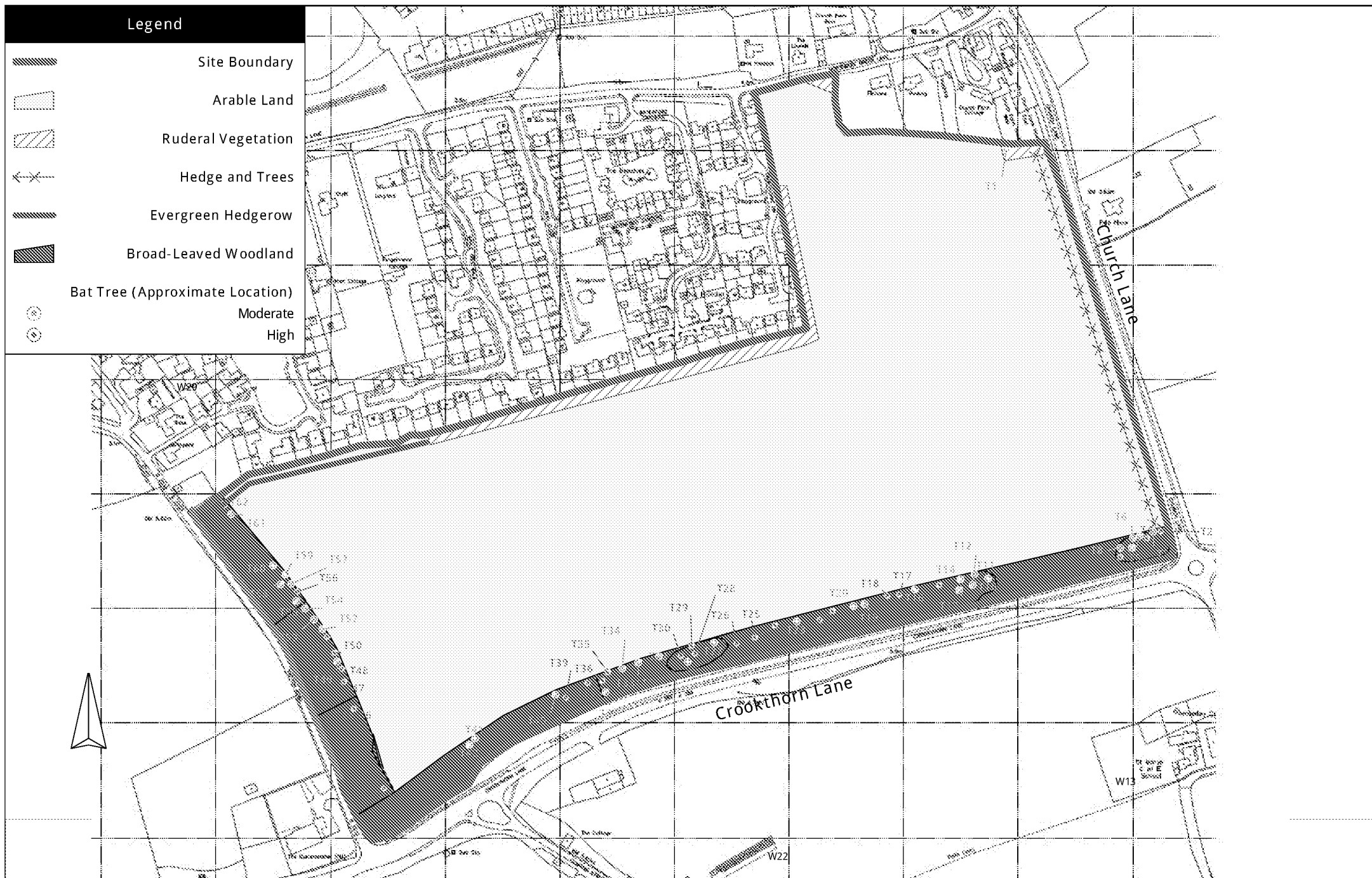
Yours sincerely



Richard Schofield
Director

Encs.

² Collins, J. (ed.) (2016). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn.). The Bat Conversation Trust, London.



Drawn by: KR
On the: 23/02/2021
Not to Scale
Ref: 9709

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