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OLIVE GROUP
New London House
6 London Street
London
EC3R 7LP

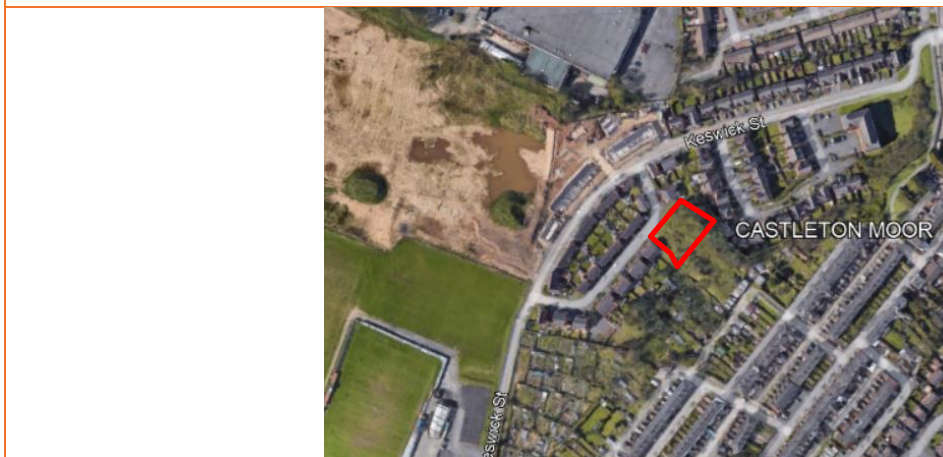
BY Email

PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT INNINGS WAY, ROCHDALE

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

E3P has undertaken a Preliminary Roost Assessment of the trees located at Land between 5 and 7 Innings Way, Rochdale, hereafter referred to as "the site". The locations are detailed within Figure 1.

FIGURE 1 APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION



The current report has been prepared to discharge Condition 8 and 11 of planning application 20/00724/FUL.



METHODOLOGY

The Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken on 15th March 2022 by Celia Barlow who has undertaken multiple PRA's on trees across the UK and holds a Natural England Bat Licence (2017-32202-CLS-CLS). The weather was dry and sunny.

The survey involved undertaking a systematic search of the trees, searching for signs of bats, or spaces where bats would be able to access. The methodology followed that described in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, 3rd Edition* (Collins, 2016).

The trees were categorised for their bat roosting potential as described in Table 1 in accordance with Collins (2016).

TABLE 1 BAT ROOSTING POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION OF TREES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
NEGLECTIBLE	A tree with no roosting features present or of an age/species that would not support roosting bats.
LOW	A tree with one or more potential roost site. However, the potential roost sites do not provide suitability for large numbers of bats (i.e. for maternity or hibernation) and would only be used on an occasional basis.
MODERATE	A tree with one or more potential roosting feature which could support bats but is of a suitability meaning that it would be unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
HIGH	A tree with several potential roosting features which would be able to support large number of bats on a regular basis and for longer periods of time. The tree would have suitability to support maternity or hibernation roosts.

The survey was undertaken utilising suitable binoculars and ladders to access all areas where safe to do so.

RESULTS

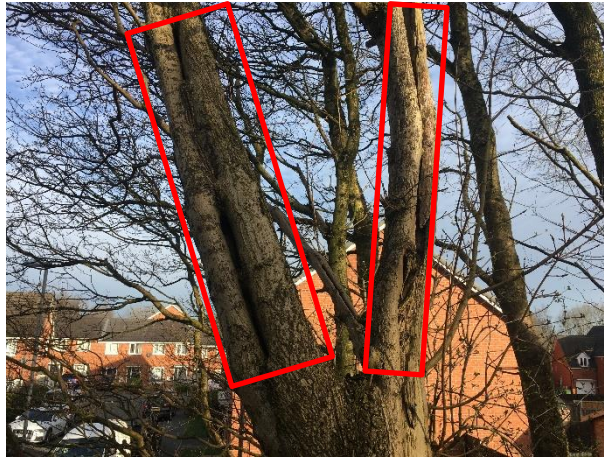
The majority of the trees located within the site boundary were identified as having Negligible potential to support roosting bats due to no potential roosting features being identified. Ivy was present on the main stem of some of the trees, however this did not hinder the inspection due to the light coverage as a result of winter die back.

PLATE 1 SHOWING LIGHT IVY COVERAGE ON TREES



Some trees present had crevice features, although upon closer inspection/ inspection with a high-powered torch, the features were not deep enough or were too exposed to support roosting bats.

PLATE 2 **SHOWING SUPERFICIAL ROOST FEATURES**



One mature hawthorn was identified as having low potential to support roosting bats, due to its mature age, and dense ivy coverage (SD 87796 10730).

PLATE 3 **SHOWING LOW BAT POTENTIAL TREE**



Historic bird nests were also identified within the site, although no active nests were noted. It is likely that the site will support nesting birds later in the nesting season.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BATS

It is recommended that the tree with low bat roost potential is soft felled under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. This would initially involve the removal of the ivy so a detailed inspection can be undertaken. Once the ivy has been removed, an inspection for any bats can be undertaken. Due to the small height of the tree, sections could be cut and laid on the ground overnight so, in the unlikely instance that bats are present they can escape overnight.



NESTING BIRDS

Prior to vegetation removal a nesting bird check will be undertaken, when works fall between March and September (inclusive). A suitably qualified ecologist will inspect the area no more than 24 hours prior to the removal. Should any nests, or nests in construction be located, a suitable stand-off distance should be maintained until the young have fledged. The ecologist will advise on suitable stand off and provide a toolbox talk to all site contractors regarding their working limits and legal implications.

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of E3P Ltd

Celia Barlow
Associate Director

