



Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB

Senior Consultant

Email: melreid@arbtech.co.uk

Arbtech Consulting Ltd

arbtech.co.uk

PRF Aerial Inspection Survey

Survey site:

Land South East of Half Acre House, Roch Valley Way, Rochdale, OL11 4DB

Client:

Half Acre House Residential Care Home

Survey date:

28th January 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. The proposal is described as:
The construction of 5no. dwellings.

The site survey was undertaken by Mel Reid BSc (hons) MRes (Natural England Bat Class 2 Licence Number: 2024-12491-CL18-BAT)					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
20/01/2025	5	95	100	9	None
PRF Survey Factor	This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.				
See PRF Aerial Inspection plan in Appendix 1 and proposed plans in Appendix 2.					
Background and Site Location					
Summary of site and desk Study	Site Context The site is centred on National Grid Reference: SD 88112 12727 and has an area of approximately ~0.3ha. The site comprises grassland, scrub and woodland. The site is set within an urban high-density area of Rochdale which comprises residential dwellings with associated vegetated gardens and tarmacked roads to the north, industrial infrastructure to the south, and hedge and tree lined amenity fields to the southwest with dense pockets of woodland. These woodlands extend into the wider landscape and act as linear landscape elements which facilitate dispersal for many species of wildlife. The River Roch runs ~120m to the southeast and Rochdale Cemetery is situated ~460m to the north. Previous Surveys A previous Ground Level Tree Assessment was carried out by Arbtech (2024), which concluded the following: - T27 was found to possess a stem cavity and was therefore classified as further investigation required (i.e. FAR) - T71 was found to possess a stem cavity and was therefore classified as further investigation required (i.e. FAR) - T98 was found to possess two stem cavities and was therefore classified as further investigation required (i.e. FAR) All of the above trees are due for removal to facilitate the proposed development. As such due to the presence of features in the trees which may provide suitable for bats a close-up aerial inspection was recommended. Other trees are present on site and are due for removal, however, were classified as negligible for roosting bats, and therefore not subject to further inspection.				
Field survey results					
Summary of Survey Findings	The site was visited by Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant (Natural England Bat Class 2 Licence Number: 2024-12491-CL18-BAT), with the assistance of Amber Williams BSc (Hons), MSc, MPhil, Graduate Ecologist, and Leo Plevin, Senior Ecologist and Class 2 licence holder on 28 th January 2025.				

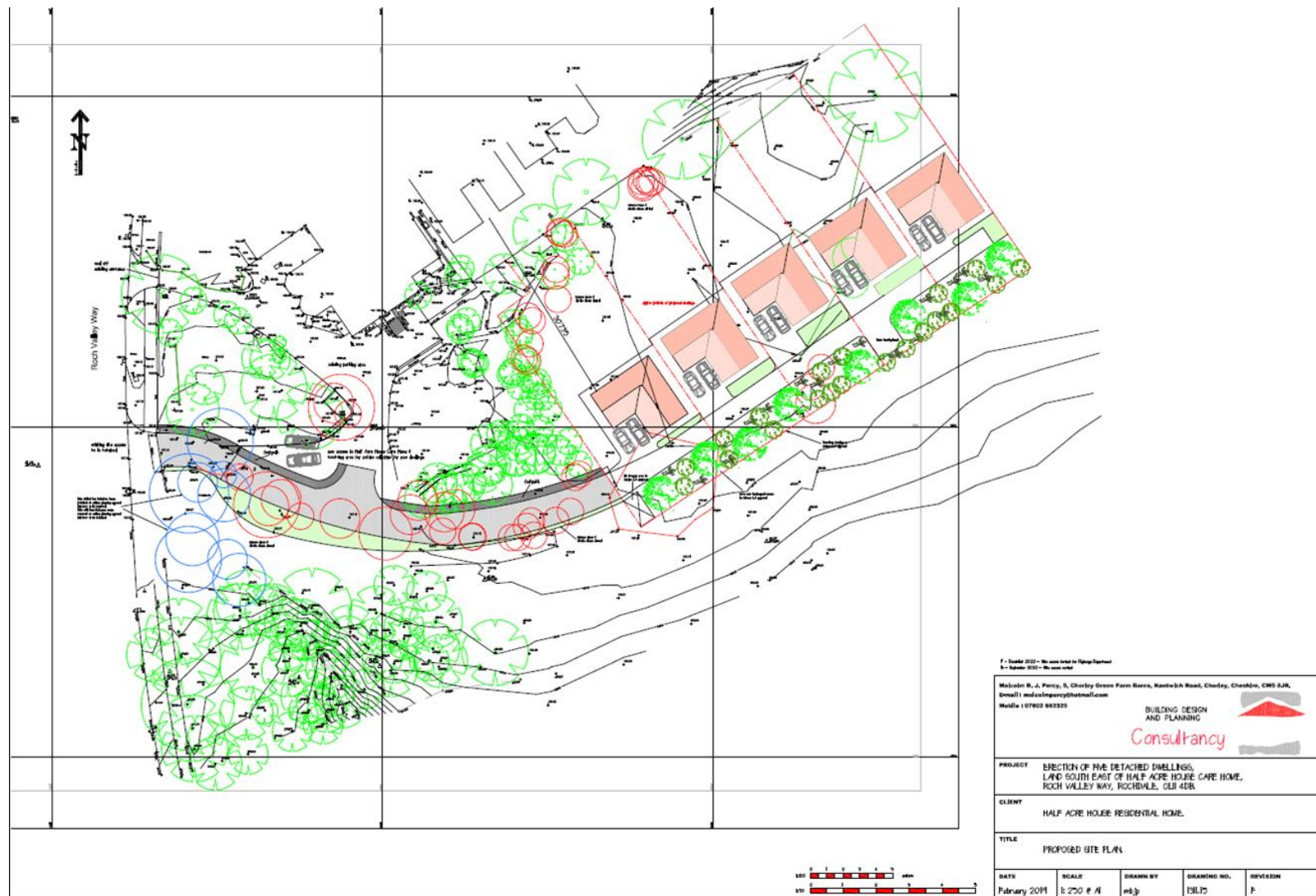
A summary of each tree is provided in the table below.		
Tree/Feature Reference	Tree/Feature Description	Tree/Feature Photo
T27 - Overview	T27 is a mature sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) ~14m height with a DBH of ~46cm situated to the northwestern site boundary at National Grid Reference SD88111272. The tree was found to have the following feature: A stem cavity at 3.5m on south of the stem measuring 800mm by 600mm (Figure 1) Upon closer inspection of the feature during the aerial inspection the cavity was found to be filled with decaying wood with no depth and therefore no suitability for roosting bats. As such the tree is concluded as being NONE (i.e. no roosting features present). This tree will be removed as part of the proposed works.	 Figure 1: PRF on T27
T71 - Overview	T71 is a mature beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) ~ 14m height with a DBH ~36cm situated to the southwest of T27 at National Grid Reference SD88091271. The tree was found to have the following feature: A stem cavity at 4m on west of the stem measuring 90mm by 10mm (Figure 2) Upon closer inspection of the feature during the aerial inspection the cavity was found to be filled with decaying wood with no depth and therefore no suitability for roosting bats. As such the tree is concluded as being NONE (i.e. no roosting features present). This tree will be removed as part of the proposed works.	 Figure 2: PRF on T71

	T98 - Overview T98 is a mature goats willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) ~ 6m height with 5 main stems of which the largest had a DBH ~30cm situated to the south of T71 at National Grid Reference SD88101268. The tree was found to have the following features: • A stem cavity at 1m on north of the stem measuring 600mm width by 80mm width (Figure 3) already classified as NONE during the GLTA • A stem cavity at 2m on south of stem measuring 130mm by 40mm (Figure 4) • A stem cavity at 2.5m on south of stem measuring 80mm by 30mm (No photo available) The cavity at 1m was re-inspected and still found to be unsuitable for roosting bats due to a lack of crevices. The features at 2 and 2.5m were inspected and were also found to be unsuitable for bats due to a lack of crevices or hollows. As such the tree is concluded as being NONE (i.e. no roosting features present). This tree will be removed as part of the proposed works.	 Figure 3: PRF on T98  Figure 4: PRF on T98	
Foreseen Impacts	All trees have been classified as NONE (i.e. no roosting features present) following the aerial inspection survey, and therefore the removal of these trees is not anticipated to impact any roosting bats.		
Recommendations	No further surveys are required. Tree removal works can continue with no further action.		

Appendix 1: Aerial Inspection Survey plan



Appendix 2: Proposed plan



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Version control			
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