

Ash Road South

Tree climbing survey for bats

Badger assessment

Report date: 15 August 2016

Survey date: 9 February 2016

Weather conditions: Sunny and dry conditions, 21⁰ Celsius, no wind.

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Objectives:

Bats

Three oak trees with potential bat roosting features had been identified and the purpose of the tree climbing survey was to assess the features at height and at close quarters. Potential bat roosting features in trees includes crevices and cavities from lifted bark, split bark, woodpecker holes, pruning wounds and underneath thick-stemmed ivy.

Badgers

Potential badger holes were identified during the phase 1 survey of the site and required more detailed assessment after small-scale vegetation clearance.

Methods:

Bats

The survey was conducted using a range of equipment including climbing equipment, ladder, endoscope and head torches. The surveyors checked the roosting features for signs of present or historic occupation by bats. Such signs may include bat droppings, urine stains, rubbing or scratch marks.

Badgers

An inspection of all habitats with the potential to support badger sett construction and foraging activities on the site was undertaken. Any incidental observations of badger signs were also recorded. The survey comprised searching for evidence of badger activity in the form of setts, droppings, pathways, snuffle holes, hair and footprints.

Personnel:

The survey was carried out by two tree climbers qualified in using harnesses for climbing (Etienne Swarts and Bill Robinson), and under the Natural England bat survey licence CLS001671 held by the former.

Results:

Bats

T1 Northernmost oak <i>Quercus robur</i> 	10m height <i>Potential bat roost features:</i> 1 deadwood/splits, East facing, 5m height 2 pruning wound, East facing, 6m height 3 Cavity underneath branch, East facing 7m height 4 Split bark, West facing 6m height 5 Rot hole, South facing 6m height
	Example of stem cavity



Example of deadwood split cavities

T2 central oak



8m height
Stem failure open to elements from top.
Stem rot and ivy covered.
No suitable cavities present

T3 southernmost oak 	8 height Stag-headed oak in declining health <i>Potential bat roost features:</i> 1 Lifted bark – open to rain ingress 2 Various small rot holes 3 Deadwood cavity, North facing, 6m height 4 Deadwood cavity, South facing, 7m height
	Example of deadwood split cavities

All features were inspected at close quarters and did not contain evidence of use by bats, and/or did not contain cavities of sufficient size to provide habitat for bats.

No further surveys were considered necessary.

Badgers



Fox/rabbit hole on site's northern boundary

The site did not contain evidence of badger runs and only two holes were present along the northern boundary. The holes were not in recent use and appeared to have been dug by rabbits or a fox.

Conclusions:

Bats

The trees assessed did not contain evidence of use by bats and it can be concluded that the proposed works to the trees can proceed without constraints in terms of wildlife legislation relating to bats.

Badgers

No signs of active badger setts were present on site and no mitigation is required for badgers.

Etienne Swarts

B. Compt(Hons), F Deg Sc, ACIEEM.

Site photos



View of site along southern boundary, looking east



View of southern end of site, looking north-west



View of road frontage of site, looking north



View of site entrance off Ash Road South