ecological design consultant

the cottage
bodrhyddan hall
rhuddlan
denbighshire
LL18 5SB

AERIAL TREE ASSESSMENT - BATS

SITE

Rhostyllen footpath / cycleway Route
Colliery Road
Wrexham
LL14 4FG

CLIENT

SG Estates
Unit 1
Rhosddu Industrial Estate
Old Rhosrobin
Wrexham
LL11 4YL

JOB No.

1090

DATE

September 2025

GRID REFERENCE

SJ 31685 48331
(approx. centre of site)

01745 591208 tel....mobile 07778 134930 e. mail: tim@edcuk.co.uk

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Issue No	V1
Prepared For	SG Estates
Prepared By	EDC
Author	Tobias Hodnett
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

EDC were commissioned to undertake an aerial tree assessment for bat roost potential, of an area of land situated in Rhostyllen on behalf of SG Estates. The proposed works are for the construction of a footpath/cycleway and bridge across the Glan Yr Afon Brook, within a parcel of mixed woodland located to the south of the ongoing SG Estates housing development site, situated off Wrexham Road. The proposed site works survey area is approximately 1.35 ha, with the South eastern boundary adjoining Hafod Road. The Glan-yr-afon Brook runs central throughout the course of the site. A previous survey preliminary ecological appraisal has been undertaken on site by EDC in 2025 and United Environmental Services Ltd in 2022. Prior to this investigation a ground level tree assessment was undertaken in May 2025 by EDC.

The preliminary ground level assessment surveyed 115 trees, of which 37 were recommended for further study. Specifically for the presence of roosting bat potential.

2.0 SITE and SURVEY AREA

The overall survey area is approximately 5.4 Ha, with the proposed site works boundary being approximately 1.35ha in area. The vast majority of which comprises broadleaved woodland. The development works will be localised in nature. Agricultural arable land is adjacent to the woodland and the majority of the proposed footpath / cycleway will follow the boundary line of the woodland within this arable land. The Glan-yr-afon brook flows through the woodland from west to east. The south eastern section of site is an area of species-poor semi-improved grassland.

At this time, the proposed footpath / cycleway route has not been finalised although an indicative plan has been provided to EDC. The planned works will include the creation of a footpath / cycleway and bridge. One footbridge is to be provided as part of the works.



Fig 1 – **Survey Area**. White area indicates the extent of the site boundary. The main focus of the aerial tree assessment was the red highlighted area, which was surveyed between 27/08/2025 to 29/08/2025.

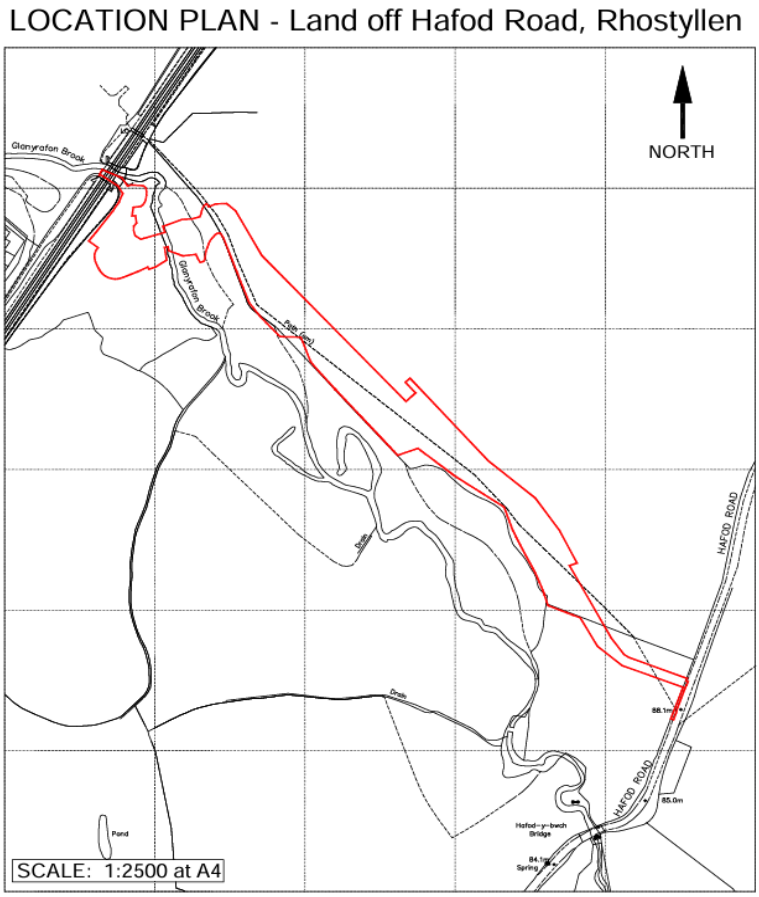


Fig 2 – **Proposed Work Survey Area** . Red line boundary area as this is where the proposed footpath / cycleway and bridge are to be situated.

Survey

The survey was conducted under optimal conditions, during a period of dry warm weather, between the 27th August 2025 to the 29th August 2025 by Ecological Consultant Tobias Hodnett and Arboriculturists Woodmen Ltd.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 DATA SEARCH

A desk top data search for Bat species records within 2 km over the last 20 years was undertaken.

3.2 AERIAL TREE ASSESSMENT:

An Aerial tree assessment was carried out on 37 trees which are earmarked for removal as part of the proposed works. The trees earmarked for removal are shown on the MD landscape drawings listed in the appendix 9.3 (No's 238/T/114 Rev P03 & 238/T/115 Rev P03). The purpose of the survey was to identify any suitability to support roosting bats. Survey methodology was in line with the most up-to-date guidance available at the time of the survey.

In order to assess the trees, a mobile elevated working platform (MEWP) was utilised to provide access to evaluated potential roost features (PRF's), initially highlighted from the previous

ground level tree assessment. Of the 37 trees 6 were climbed by trained professional arboriculturists due to restricted access and 6 were soft felled to due safety concerns.

34 of the trees had sections of dense ivy covering the trunks which was removed through destructive searches. 30 PRF's were assessed with the utilisation of an endoscope by a licensed bat ecologist to their full extent.

4.0 LIMITATIONS

No limitations were recorded that would be considered to vary the species and habitats as recorded during survey.

5.0 EXISTING DATA

5.1 *BAT (Chiroptera)*:

Bat *Chiroptera* –

There is a single record historic record from circa 1998 for brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat located 1.5km to the east of the survey boundary. During the 2022 survey no presence was identified within the survey boundary and proposed works area.

The following species are recorded at both local and at a county level: -

- Pipistrelle Pipistrellus *pipistrellus/pygmaeus*
- Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*
- Lesser Horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
- Greater Horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*
- Whiskered/Brandt's *Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*
- Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*

5.2 GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT

A ground level tree assessment was carried out on 115 trees which are earmarked for removal as part of the proposed works. The trees earmarked for removal are shown on the MD landscape drawings listed in the appendix 9.3 (No's 238/T/114 Rev P03 & 238/T/115 Rev P03). The purpose of the survey was to identify any suitability to support roosting bats. Survey methodology was in line with the most up-to-date guidance available at the time of the survey (Collins (ed), 2016); however, methods are considered compliant with the recently published update to the good practice guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins (ed), 2023). Various data were recorded, including;

- Tag Number;
- Species;
- Height (estimate);
- Age (category);
- Condition; and
- Bat Roost Potential.

Comments were also included to add clarification to the assessment.

The suitability of a tree for roosting bats relies on the presence of potential roost features (PRFs); these may include:

- Fissures and cracks, often caused by tree damage;
- Rot holes/cavities;
- Woodpecker holes, knot holes; and
- Lifted bark.

Where potential roost features were visible from the ground, their locations and characteristics were recorded to determine the requirement for further surveys. For trees that possess multiple PRFs, or where PRFs are considered likely to support roosts of a higher conservation significance.

The surveyors also assessed the suitability of the habitat for foraging and commuting bats.

The Lead surveyor was experienced in assessing trees from ground level. Trees were not climbed; where necessary, binoculars were used to identify and classify potential roost features (PRFs)

6.0 RESULTS

At the time of surveys climatic conditions throughout the assessment were dry and clear, with minimal breeze. Average temperature was 15 °C.

6.1 *AERIAL TREE ASSESSMENT:*

Table 1 displays the summary of all tree species assessed at the time of survey. A detailed description of potential roost features is shown in table 2.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number Surveyed	MEWP ASSESED	CLIMBED	SOFT FELLED	Highlighted
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	27	25	0	2	1 – (0511)
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	5	0	2	3	0
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	3	0	2	1	0
Birch	*Betula pendula*	2	1	1	0	0

Table 1: Summary of Ground Level Tree Assessment

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 AERIAL TREE ASSESSMENT:

Of the 37 trees surveyed 1 has been highlighted for further assessment. It is therefore the surveyor's opinion that prior to the commencement of works tree 0511 should be assessed by a licensed bat ecologist with the utilisation of an endoscope.

8.0 CONCLUSION

No major impacts on protected species, biodiversity or habitats have been identified at this stage of the assessment process. It is recommended that some elements of further survey are undertaken with tree 0511. Generally, it is therefore the surveyor's opinion that the proposed development proposals are considered likely to have no long-term impact on the favourable conservation status of locally recorded protected species, or their ecological functionality if the works are carried out in accordance with good mitigation and management going forward.

Tobias Hodnett

edc

September 2025

APPENDICES

9.0 Site Photographs

Photo 1-

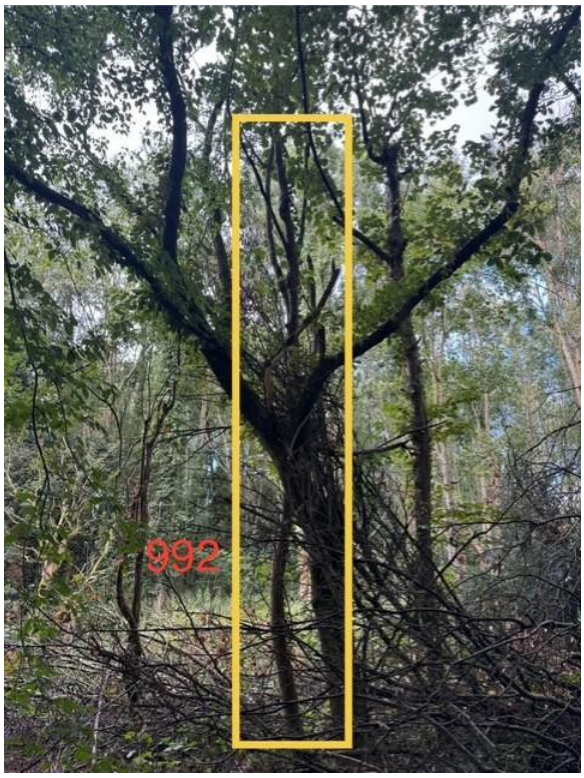




Photo 2-

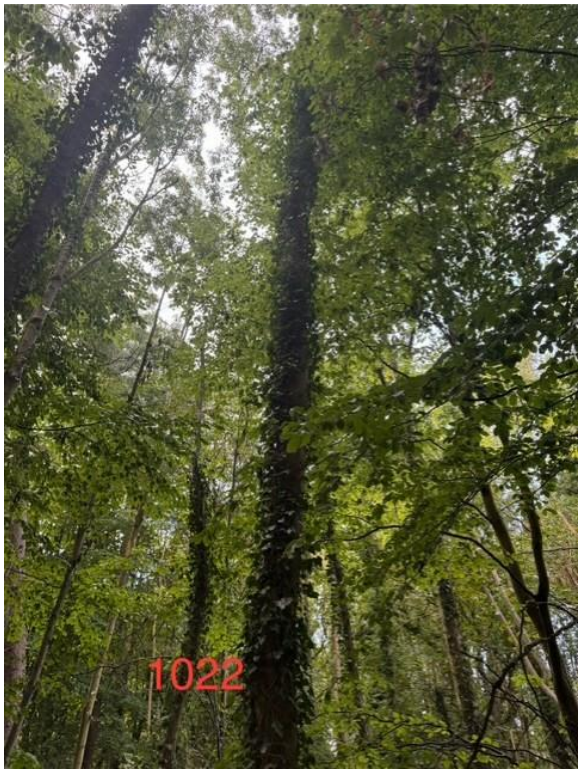




Photo 3-





Photo 4-





Photo 5-

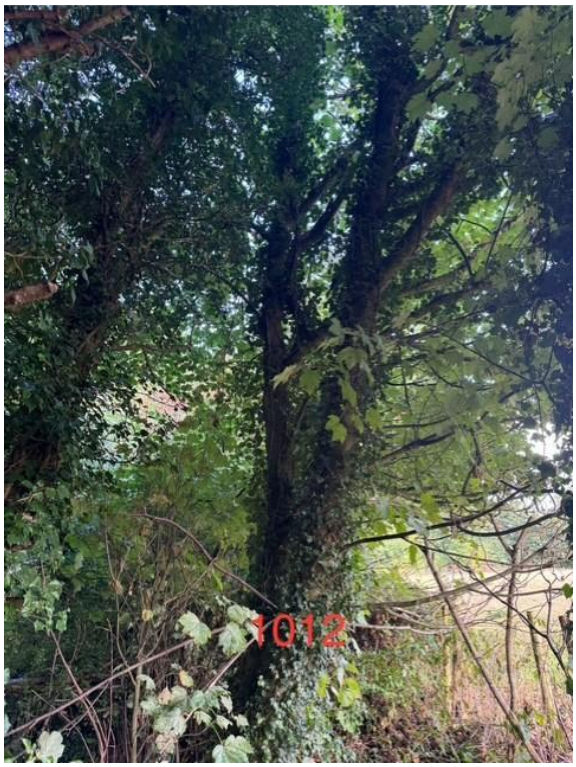




Photo 6-





Photo 7-





Photo 8-





Photo 9-

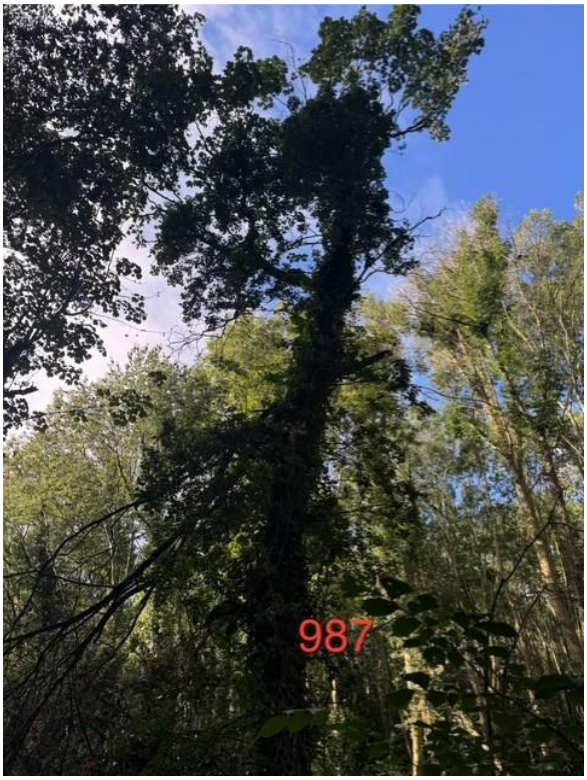
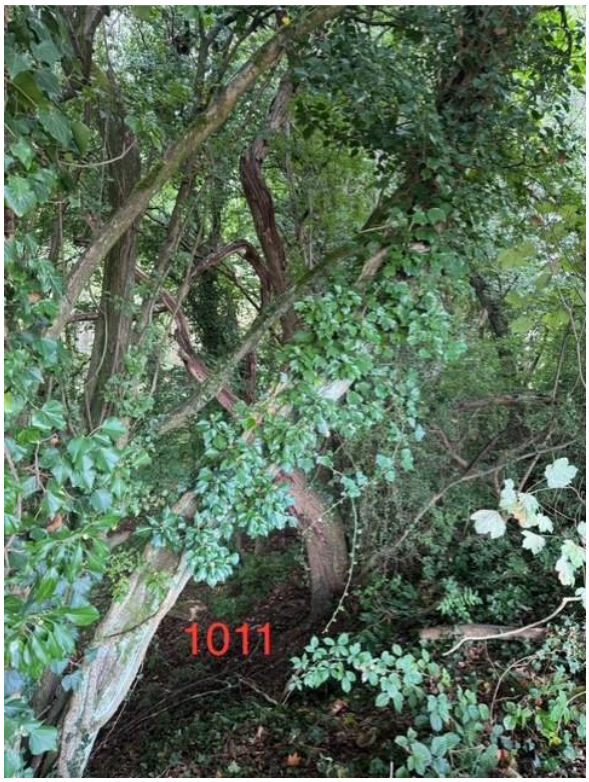




Photo 10-



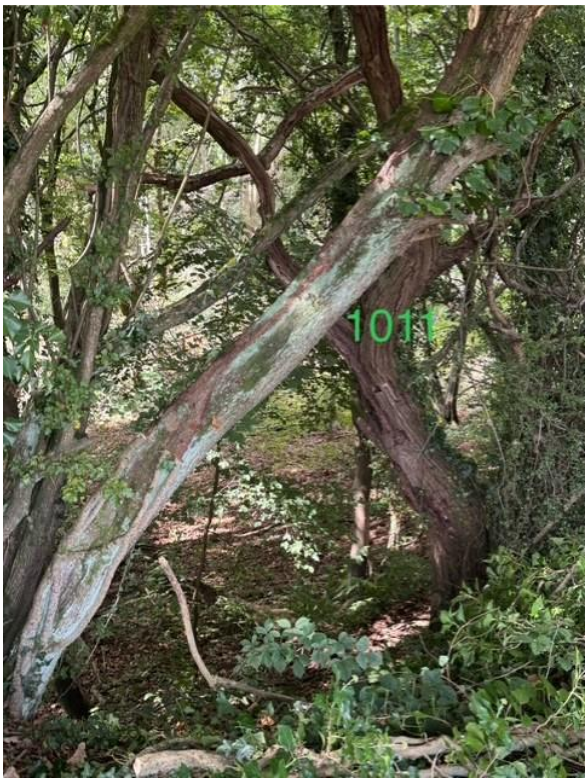


Photo 11-



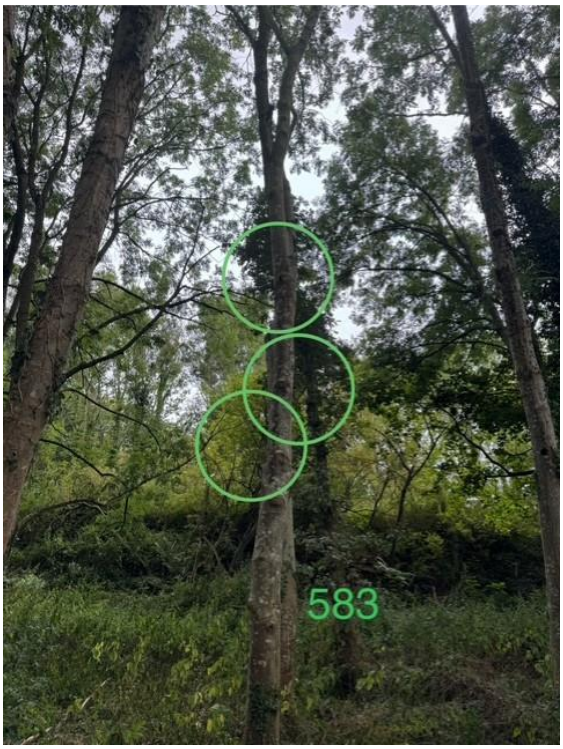


Photo 12-





Photo 13-



Photo 14-

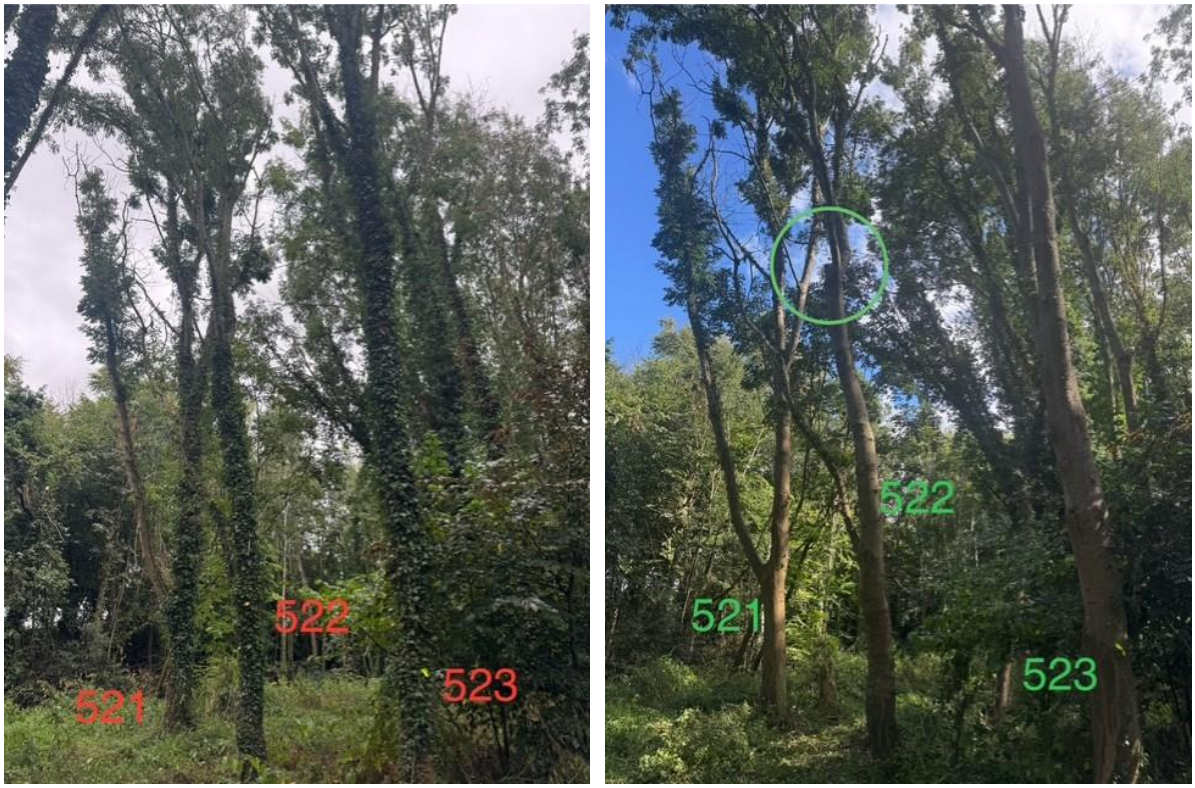
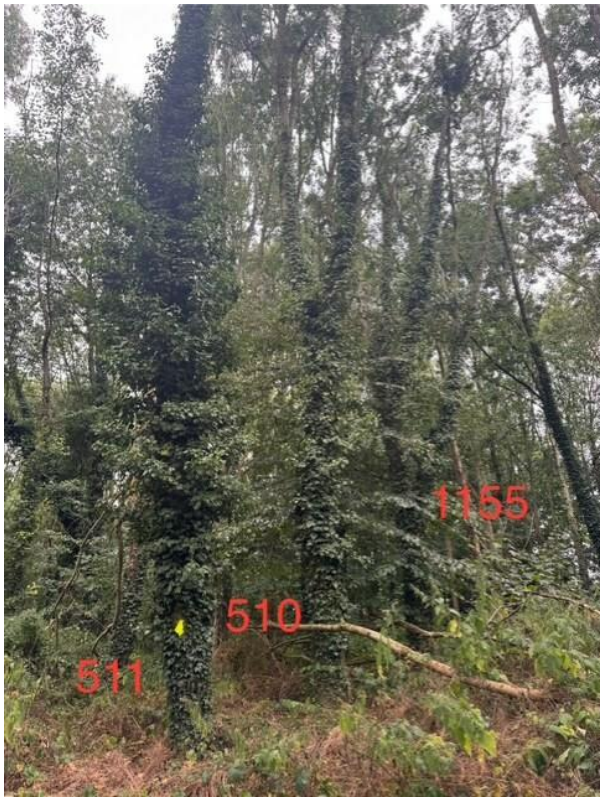


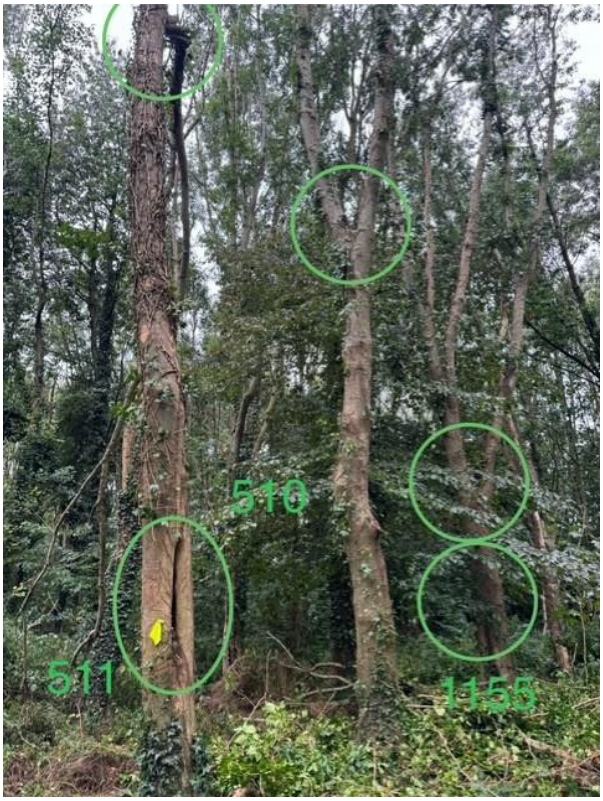
Photo 15-





Photo 16-





9.1 Botanical Species List

Vascular Plants	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Birdsfoot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Bramble	*Rubus fruitcosus agg.*
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*
Broad-leaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*
Buttercup species	*Ranunculus spp.*
Butterfly bush	*Buddleia davidii*
Common dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Cocksfoot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Elder Flower	*Sambus nigra*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Sycamore	*Acer psuedoplatanus*
Oak	*Quercus sp*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Pine	*Pinus sp*
Rowen	*Sorbus aucuparia*
Alder	*Alnus sp*
European ivy	*Hedera helix*
Poplar	*Populus sp*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Meadow foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*
Plantain species	*Plantago spp.*
Lords & Ladies	*Arum maculatum*
Speedwell	*Veronia sp*
Rosebay willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*
Sweet vernal grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Timothy	*Phleum pratense*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Willow	*Salix spp*
Holly	*Llex sp*
Wild Garlic	*Allium ursinum*

Bluebell Common	*Hyacinthordes no scripta*
Dogs Mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*
Campion	*Silene sp*
Wild Raspberry	*Rubus moluccanus*
Cleaver	*Galium aparine*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus sp*
Japensese Knotweed	*Reynoutria Japaonica*
Himalyan Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondytium*
Yellow Archangel	*Lamium glaeobdolon*

9.3 Proposed Site Works Study Area

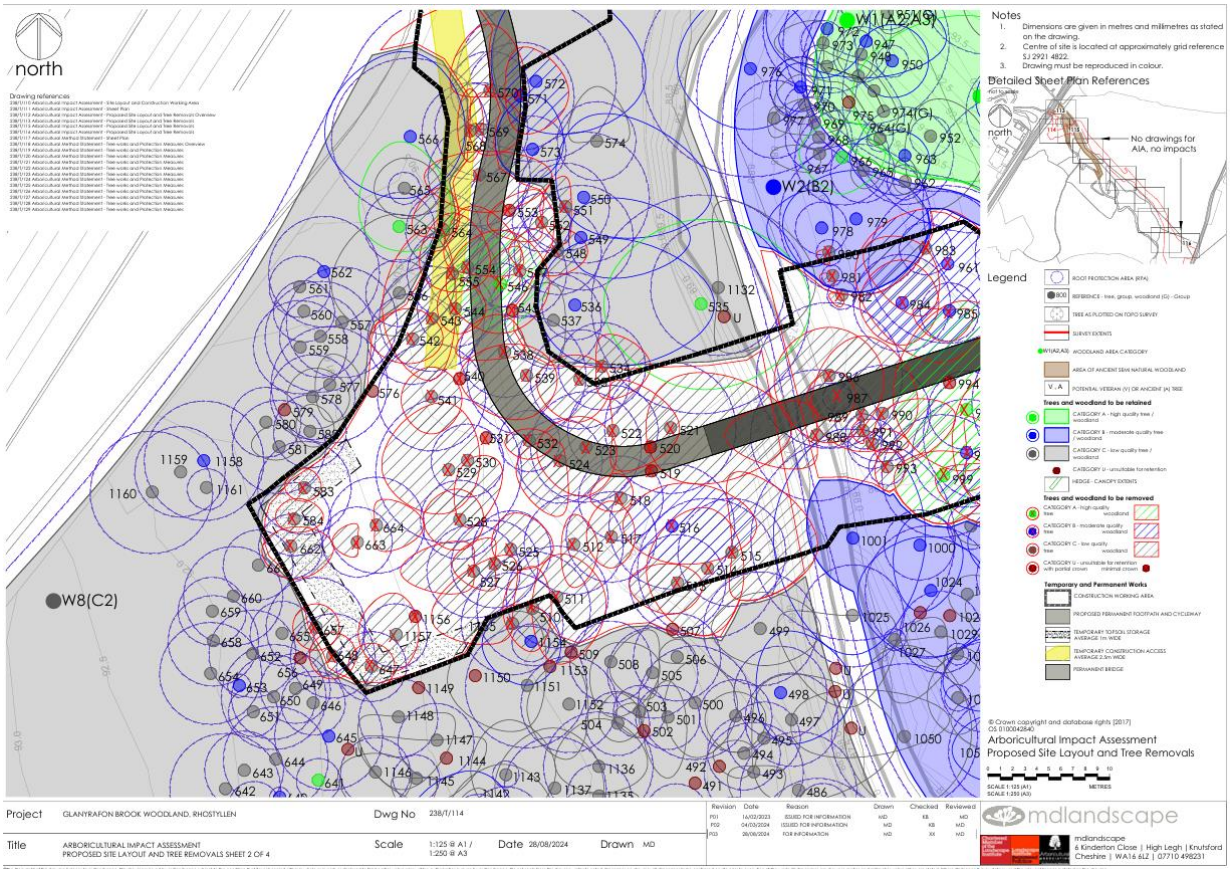


Figure 3: Western area of the proposed works site boundary, showing tree tag numbers of assessed trees.

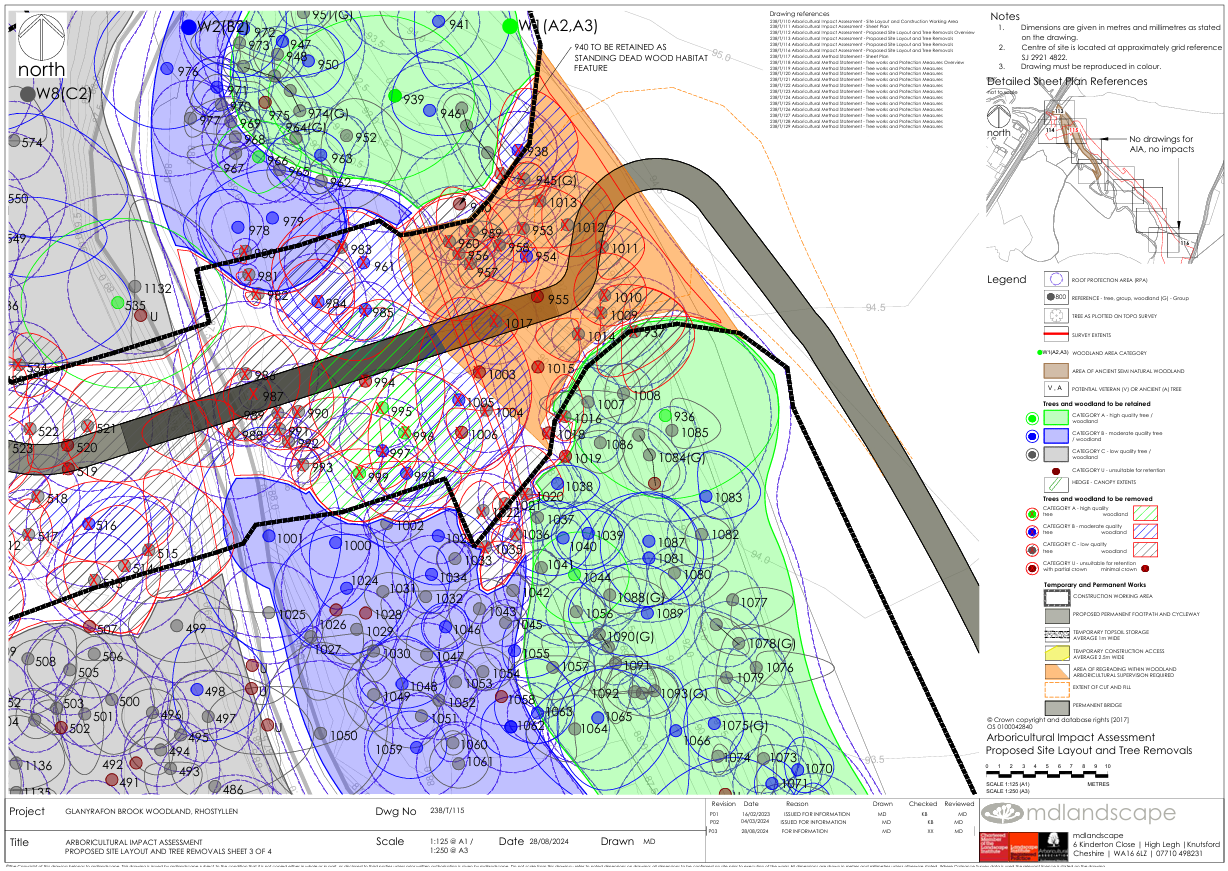


Figure 4: Eastern area of the proposed works site boundary, showing tree tag numbers of assessed trees.

9.4 Detailed Tree Assessment Table (2)

Tag no.	Species	Feature Y/N	Comments	Roost Potential
0570	ASH	N	Dense Ivy Removed	low
0567	BIRCH	N	Dense Ivy Removed.	Low
0554	ASH	Y	Visible Void situated at approx. 6m. Assessed with Endoscope.	Low
0543	ASH	Y	Visible Void situated at approx. 6m. Assessed with Endoscope.	Low
0576	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope.	Low
0529	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope.	Low
0511	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 10m removed. One feature at 6m with no potential. Second feature at 2m has medium potential for roost. Further assessment to determine species presence prior to removal.	Medium
0510	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 5m assessed with endoscope.	Low
1155	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy Removed. 2 Features at 2m and 3m both assessed with endoscope.	Low
0647	ASH	N	Dense Ivy Removed.	Low

0648	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
0657	**ASH**	**Y**	**Visible Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope. Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
0583	**ASH**	**Y**	**3 Visible Features at 4m and 5m. All assessed with endoscope**	**Low**
0584	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
0662	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0663	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 6m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0534	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed**	**Low**
0533	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature visible at 2m, assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0513	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
0514	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0515	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0516	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 8m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0518	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. 2 visible features at 4m and 5m both assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0521	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**

0522	**ASH**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 8m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
0523	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
1022	**ASH**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
1020	**BIRCH**	**Y**	**Feature at 5m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
1015	**HAWTHORN**	**N**	**Soft Felled – Ivy assessed at ground level.**	**Low**
0987	**SYCAMORE**	**Y**	**Soft Felled – Dense Ivy and Features assessed at ground level.**	**Low**
1012	**HAWTHORN**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
1011	**HAWTHORN**	**N**	**Dense Ivy Removed.**	**Low**
0961	**SYCAMORE**	**Y**	**3 Features at 4m, 5m and 7m all assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**
1017	**SYCAMORE**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 4m assessed with endoscope**	**Low**
0992	**SYCAMORE**	**Y**	**Soft Felled – Feature assessed with endoscope at ground level.**	**Low**
0937	**SYCAMORE**	**Y**	**Dense Ivy Removed. Feature at 3m assessed with endoscope.**	**Low**