

## Ground Based Assessment of Trees to Support Roosting Bats

**PROJECT TITLE:** Proposed residential scheme

**SITE ADDRESS :** Land to the north of Crabtree Walk, Trefechan

**DATE:** 10th February 2021

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Planning consent is being sought for a housing development within a parcel of land to the north of Crabtree Walk, Trefechan. The site measures approximately 2.8ha in size and is centred at SO 03424 09076. An extended phase 1 habitat survey of the site was completed by Ecological Services Ltd in August 2018. The survey found the site consists of semi improved grassland, bracken dominated scrub, scattered trees, dry stone walling and tall ruderal vegetation. The survey methodology and recommendation can be found in the report '*Extended Phase One Ecology Survey, Land at Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil*' dated January 2019.

The phase 1 survey highlighted a small number of trees across the development site as having potential for roosting use by bats. An arboricultural report for the development site has been completed by ArbTS Ltd. A tree survey was completed on the 12th February 2019. As the development proposals have progressed the tree survey has highlighted a number of trees which will require removal to facilitate the proposed development. A ground based visual assessment of the trees to be removed has been undertaken.

### **Survey Methodology**

A site visit was completed on the 14th September 2020 to visually inspect each tree proposed for removal based on the Arboricultural Report by ArbTA dated 8th April 2020. The report notes 7 trees and two sections of coniferous hedgerow to be removed. Whilst September is a suboptimal time of year to complete visual inspections of trees for bat roosting potential, a good view around each tree was possible. Each tree or group of trees

is noted in the below table and photos are provided within Appendix 3. The references used correlate to the tree survey report.

| Tree               | Stem Diameter (mm) | Potential Roost Features                                                                                                                               | Potential for Bat Use |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| T17 Hawthorn       | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is shrubby in appearance with all branches thin. Approximately 4m high | Negligible            |
| T11 Hawthorn       | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is dead                                                                | Negligible            |
| T10 Hawthorn       | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is shrubby in appearance with all branches thin. Approximately 4m high | Negligible            |
| T9 Hawthorn        | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is shrubby in appearance with all branches thin. Approximately 4m high | Negligible            |
| T8 Hawthorn        | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is shrubby in appearance with all branches thin. Approximately 4m high | Negligible            |
| T2 Hawthorn        | 200                | None observed. No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is dead.                                                              | Negligible            |
| T934 Hawthorn      | 200                | None observed.No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible. Tree is shrubby in appearance with all branches thin. Approximately 4m high | Negligible            |
| H1 Leyland Cypress | 250                | None observed. No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible.                                                                            | Negligible            |
| H2 Leyland Cypress | 200                | None observed. No gaps or cracks suitable for roosting use by bats visible.                                                                            | Negligible            |

Photographs of each tree are provided in Appendix 1.

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## **Conclusions**

No tree proposed for removal was observed to have any roosting feature suitable for use by roosting bats. The trees were still in leaf at the time of the ground based assessment which can obscure views. However as the trees are scattered across the site the surveyor was able to gain access all around each tree.

The proposed development is unlikely to result in the loss of any bat roost location within trees to be removed as part of the development. The results of the bat tree survey work will be used to fully inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of the development.

## **Best Wishes**

**Ash Harris**  
**Director**  
**Ecological Services Ltd**

Signed: *Ash Harris* Date: February 2021

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## **Appendix 1 - Photographs of Trees**

T17 Hawthorn



T11 Hawthorn



T10 Hawthorn



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T9 Hawthorn



T8 Hawthorn



T2 Hawthorn



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T934 Hawthorn



H1 Leyland Cypress



H2 Leyland Cypress

