
Land at Redlands Lane, Westbourne, Hampshire

ECOLOGICAL SCOPING APPRAISAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINIMISING ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

ADDENDUM REGARDING BATS

Client: Gary Miller
Fairacres Farm, Froxfield, Hampshire GU32 1DQ
Site: Land at Redlands Lane, Westbourne, Hampshire
Project: Ecological scoping appraisal and initial recommendations
Site visit: 26 November 2012
Report date: 5 December 2012
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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The landowner and applicant, has requested a site visit to appraise the potential for trees that require removal or limb trimming to support bats and/or their roosts.

The survey and assessment was carried out by Dean Swensson (licensed Natural England bat surveyor). A site visit was carried out on 26th November 2012 and which was also attended by David Cashman of Barrell Tree Consultancy and by Allen Unsted, Building Design Consultant.

The purpose of the site visit was to identify whether any of the proposed tree works would impact on features suitable for protected bat species to use. This matter was highlighted by recent consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

Figure 1 shows the proposed tree works as submitted.

In summary, while most of the trees showed no bat potential, a few of the trees affected do have some small features that could potentially be used by bats. In view of this, suggestions have been made to modify the arboricultural proposals such as by pollarding rather than felling one ivy covered tree and avoiding removal of boundary trees with significant bat potential. By way of further precaution, it is recommended that tree works should be supervised by an ecologist with appropriate experience of working with bats.

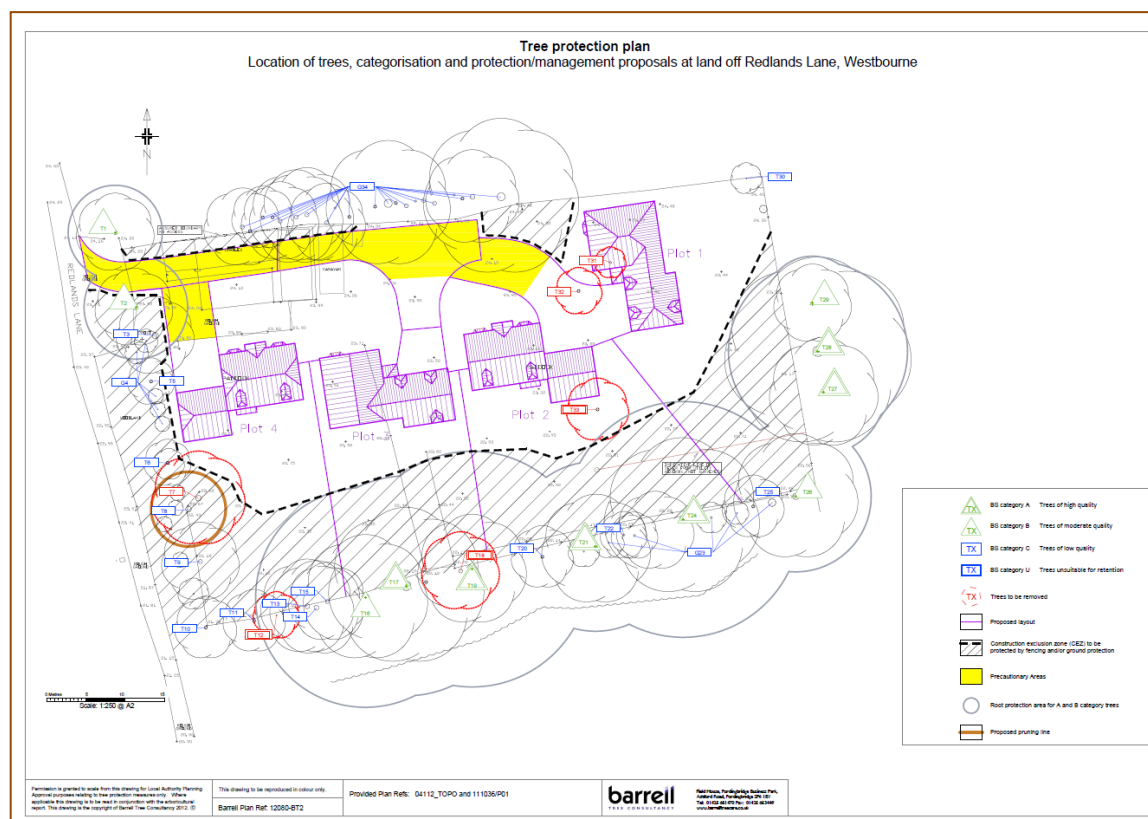
Ecological Scoping Appraisal: Addendum regarding bats

Figure 1 Reduced version of Tree Protection Plan, Barrell Tree Consultancy. Please refer to submitted document for detail.

2.0 TREES AND BAT POTENTIAL

Survey Results & Assessment

The following section provides an assessment and recommendations in relation to the trees that have been identified as requiring works as part of the development proposals. All trees are referenced according to the Barrell Tree Consultancy tree schedule plan Ref: 12080-BT1.

T1 & 2 Oak

Both of these trees it is understood require some pruning to facilitate vehicular access. There are some negligible features suitable for bats although these are unlikely to be affected by the lifting and shaping requirements as discussed on site.

As a precaution, any pruning works will be supervised by an experienced ecologist.

T7 Poplar

This tree has been proposed for removal. This tree has some ivy cover on the lower trunk, which is thick in places and could hide further features. It has

therefore been agreed with Barrell Tree Consultancy that this tree will now be pollarded rather than be removed.

No features were identified above the point of the highest ivy cover and therefore the tree will be pollarded above this point.

T13 Ash

This tree shows several features suitable for bats to use including holes and fissures. The tree is in decline however, some pruning of the tree could take place that will reduce risk but also allow for the retention of the features identified suitable for bat species.

It was agreed on site with Barrell Tree Consultancy that this careful pruning would be reasonable and that the works would be supervised by an experienced ecologist.

T12 and T26 Southern boundary mainly consisting of mature Oaks.

These trees are to be retained with some light pruning works to lateral branches. A considerable number of these trees show suitable features for bats and would be classified under Category 1 as defined in the Bat Conservation Trust survey guidelines Table 8.4. None of the trees are to be felled or have significant pruning or reduction. Where deadwood was previously recommended within the Tree Consultants report all deadwood will remain and only light pruning to outer laterals will be carried out.

No features suitable for bats were noted in areas within the outer laterals; however, as a precautionary measure and to make sure that features suitable for bats to use are not impacted upon, the pruning works will be supervised by an experienced ecologist.

T 31 & 32 Plum

Both of these trees are considered to have negligible potential and a single very small fissure in the very lower section of one of the trees was searched for signs of bats with no signs being identified.

As a precaution, works will be supervised by an experienced ecologist.

T33 Norway spruce

This tree is dead and stands alone on the eastern central area of the site. Some loose bark was identified mainly on the lower section, which was investigated. No signs of bats were found and generally the tree was considered to be of negligible potential for bats.

It is recommended that as a precaution, the tree will be felled under supervision of an experienced ecologist.

G34 Monterey Cypress

A group of trees located on adjacent land but having significant lateral growth onto the site. Proposals include the pruning back of these trees. The surveyor noted only one negligible feature which would be subject to removal.

It is recommended that the pruning of these trees is carried out under supervision of an experienced ecologist.

3.0 CONCLUSION

No features suitable for bats will be impacted directly by the proposals given the recommendations set out above. However, as a precaution, it is recommended that to ensure that no features are indeed impacted upon, an ecologist should be present to oversee the tree works.

This document has been prepared by:

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