Mr N Biggam
Flat 136, Swan Court,
Chelsea Manor Street,
London SW3 5RU

7th November 2017

2017-10(04)

Dear Mr Biggam

**Re: Aerial tree climbing survey for bats at The Leys, Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon**

**Introduction**

Ecolocation were instructed to carry out an aerial bat inspection of various trees listed at the address above. The inspection was carried out at Thursday 2nd November 2017 by John Crawshaw an NPTC qualified tree climber and instructor, certificate number CS38- 295841 acting as an accredited agent under the level 2 bat survey licence 2015-12952-CLS-CLS held by Anna Swift, Technical Director. John has several years experience assessing the bat potential of trees and Anna Swift, licensed bat surveyor, was also on hand should any potential for a bat roost be identified that would require assistance by a qualified bat worker. The conditions were dry, bright and calm and direct access to the trees was permitted in order to undertake the work, with the exception of T5 Oak, which is situated in a neighbouring garden.

**Method**

The trees shown on the plan as T1, T2, T3, T4 & T5 were assessed for evidence of roosting bats. T5 was not climbed due to impaired access but a visual ground based assessment was carried out. T's 1 – 4 were climbed and inspected for evidence of roosting bats.

The trees were accessed using rope and harness and the following equipment was used to facilitate the inspection: Clulite high power torch, Seesnake endoscope and Iphone 6 camera.

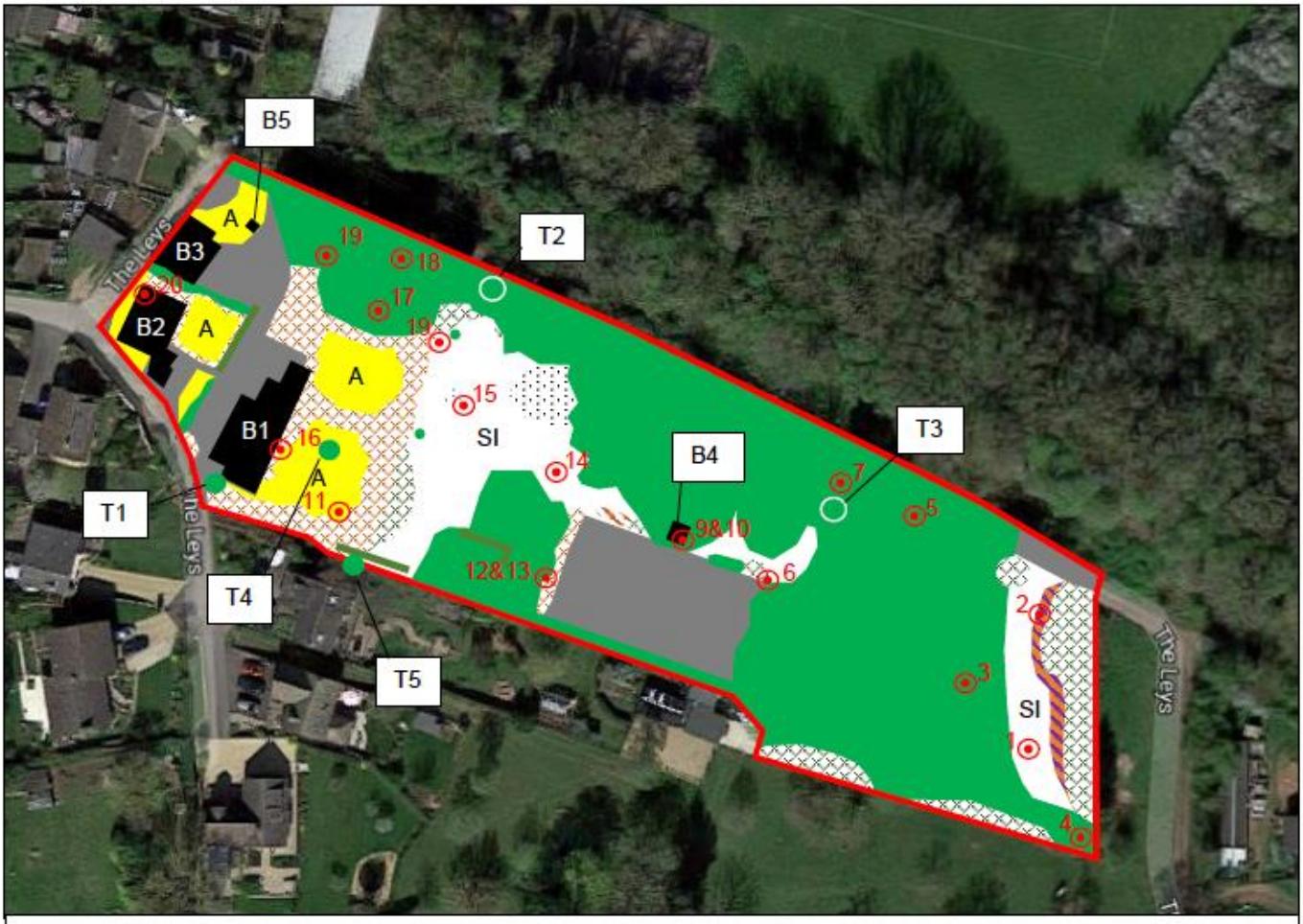
All areas of the trees were assessed, including main stem, lateral and upper branches, including branch walking to examine all potential cavities, splits, cracks, dense ivy, woodpecker holes and tear outs. The identified trees are listed below as part of the report by FEC Group Ltd and shown on the plan below.

**Table 2.** Ground Level Tree Assessment

| Tree No. | Description | Potential features | Category |
|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Mature Yew | Multiple knots holes in branch on south elevation approximately 3m up. Splits and cracks on end of branch approximately 4m up on southern elevation. Light ivy cladding from 2-7m. | 1- Low to moderate bat potential |
| T2 | Mature/Veteran Apple | Five woodpecker holes on east and south aspects approximately 4m, 5m and 6m up. Large cavity on south aspect leading through to north aspect. | 2- Moderate bat potential |
| T3 | Mature Conifer | Light ivy cladding up to 6m. | 3- Low bat potential |
| T4 | Mature Conifer | Woodpecker holes approximately 6m up on south aspect. Peeling bark on | 2- Moderate bat potential |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | south aspect of north-western limb approximately 7m up. Woodpecker hole on north east aspect approximately 4m-5m up. | |
| T5 | Mature Oak | Mature oak located in close proximity to Site on adjacent residential property to immediate south. Large cracked branch on north west aspect approximately 8m-10m up. | 2- Moderate bat potential |

**Tree Location Plan**




Key

- Target note
- Boundary line
- Intact species poor hedgerow
- Mixed plantation & Scattered trees
- Bare ground
- Introduced shrub and ornamental planting
- Dense continuous & scattered scrub
- Marshy grassland
- Hardstanding
- Tall ruderal
- SI — Species poor semi-improved grassland
- A — Amenity grassland
- B1 — Building

**Findings**

Tree climbing inspection started at 10.30am

**T1 Lawson Cypress**, identified as Yew by FEC Group. Tree in good overall condition, with no cavities, splits, cracks or woodpecker holes present. Included fork at 8m above ground, not suitable for roosting. Thin/light Ivy cover, not dense enough to act as adequate cover for roosting potential. No evidence of bats found.

**T2 Cherry**, identified as Apple by FEC Group. No cavities, holes present, included limbs from main stem, no provision for dry bat roosting. No evidence of bat usage.

**T3 Norway Spruce**, identified as Conifer by FEC Group. Ivy clad on south side. Ivy not dense enough to provide adequate bat roosting potential, no cavities. Holes or damage likely to be used by bats. No evidence of bat usage.

**T4 Atlantic Blue Cedar**, identified as Conifer by FEC Group. Severe pollard, various crevices with potential but no evidence found. Two woodpecker holes in main stem. One too small to offer any roosting potential, the other was deep enough but due to rotten section above, see photographs, the water was running down into the hole and unlikely to offer dry roosting for bats. No evidence of bat usage was found, although evidence of bird usage was noted. No evidence of bat usage at this time was recorded.

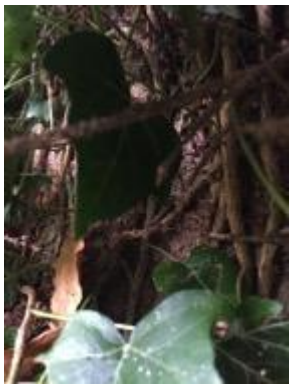
**T5 Oak**, positioned within the adjacent garden, access was not obtained, and a climbing inspection was not carried out. A thorough appraisal was carried out from ground level. The tree is in good health, there were no obvious woodpecker holes, cavities or ripped out sections. The main stem and limbs were good and solid in appearance, with good open unions and healthy canopy. Overall the tree was clean and appeared to offer low roosting potential. There was a split in one limb, which was open to the elements and would be unlikely to be able to offer a dry roosting situation. Without a climbing inspection, this report cannot be 100% sure and care should be taken to observe care during any development. The tree will be retained and due to the very high canopy, pruning is unlikely to be required. If bats are using the tree, they are unlikely to be affected by nearby proposals other than an insignificant loss of foraging area.

The inspection concluded at 2pm.

**Photos**

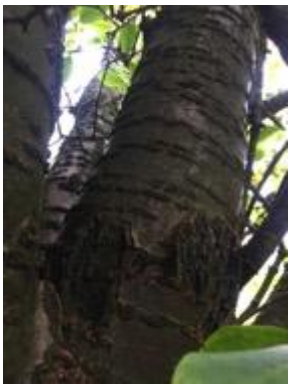
The photographs below give examples of the findings of the inspection.



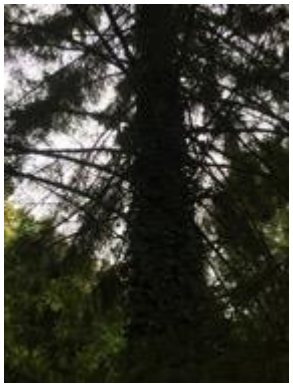


T1 Lawson Cypress. light Ivy covering, no cavities, holes etc

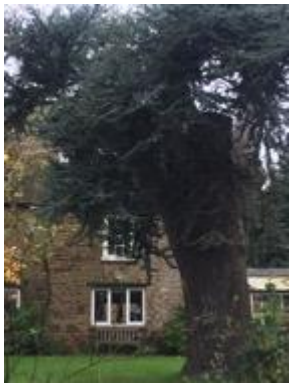




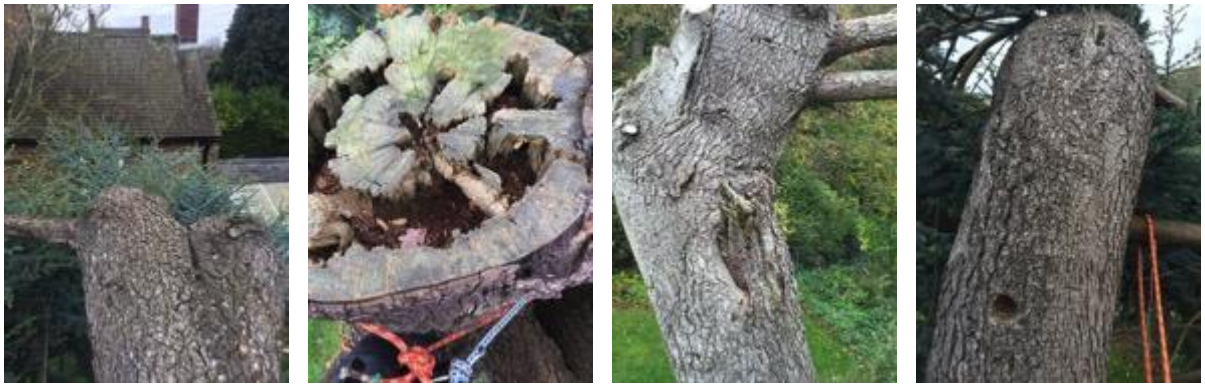
T2 Cherry. Included stems, no bat roosting potential

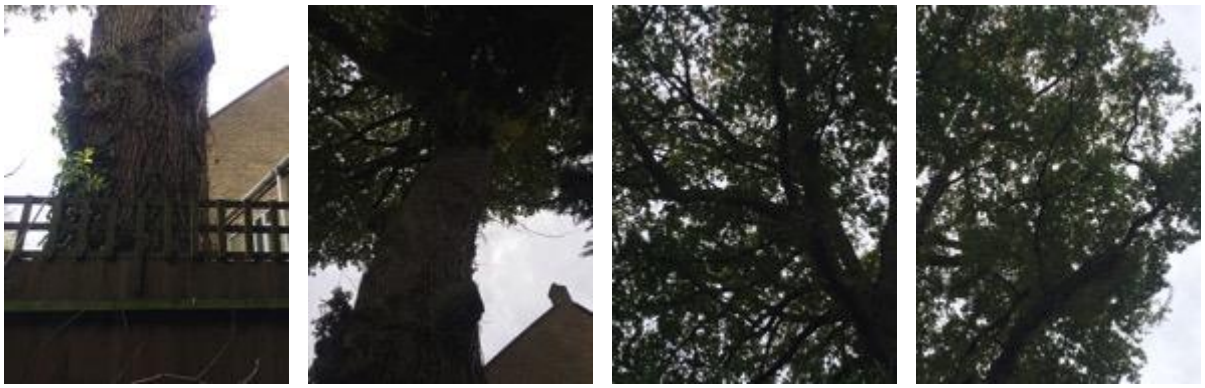



T3 Norway Spruce. Light Ivy cover, no evidence of bat usage




T4 Atlantic Blue Cedar. Tares, cavities and woodpecker holes





T5 Oak. Not climbed. Clean stem and no cavities/holes. Split in limb open to elements, not likely to be suitable for bats

**Recommendations**

It is advised that the removal or pruning works to any of the trees above could be carried out without any significant impact on local bat populations. Some thought could be given to loss of foraging area if bats are shown to be using the area for feeding. It is also advisable to avoid felling during the bird-nesting season (typically this takes place March-September inclusive). For further details, see below.

- All species of British bat and their roosts (places of shelter or rest) are protected by law from intentional and reckless disturbance under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Acts 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 to incorporate the European Habitats directive.

- No further survey work in respect of bats is recommended; however, bats are highly mobile and when not in hibernation can occupy a tree overnight. It is essential therefore that due vigilance be maintained before and during any felling works to ensure their protection. The lack of evidence of roosting at this stage does not constitute confirmation that this is not taking place intermittently or may not take place in the future. Should any evidence of bats be found during the course of this process, works should stop whilst Natural England or Ecolocation are contacted for advice on how best to proceed.

- The majority of species of nesting bird are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. Whilst no evidence of nesting birds was recorded at the time of visit, it is advised that the site be surveyed for nesting birds prior to the tree being felled, by a person competent to do so, to ensure that no breeding birds are disturbed during this process. Birds typically nest between March-September inclusive, although some species can nest at any time of year. If birds are present, works that may disturb them must not start until the chicks have fledged. Ecolocation can be contacted for advice on how best to proceed in such a scenario.

Yours faithfully,

*John Crawshaw*

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Arboriculturalist

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