

BAT ROOST POTENTIAL OF TREES

The bat roost potential of trees follows the guidelines outlined in Chapter 6 of the Bat Conservation Trusts's Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists (2016). The trees occurring along the route were visually inspected on site for the signs of preferred roost features (PRFs) using high powered torchs and binoculars. PRFs include holes, cracks and splits in stems or branches; loose or platy bark; knot holes, cankers in which cavities have developed; detached ivy with stem diameters in excess of 50mm; existing bat or bird boxes. Please see Table 1 below for definitions based on the above.

TABLE 1 DEFINITIONS OF THE POTENTIAL SUITABILITY OF ROOSTING HABITAT, BASED ON COLLINS (2016). SUITABILITY DESCRIPTION OF ROOSTING HABITATS

Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.

A daytime inspection of tree roost potential was undertaken on the 28th July 2022. The daytime inspection involved visually inspecting the individual tree occurring within the route of the proposed project for Potential Roost Features.

The tree proposed for removal was rated in terms of the tree roost potential as outlined in the section above.



EVALUATION:

This individual tree is immature copper beech. This tree is of narrow girth, with absence of ivy growth and its age reduces the potential for growth of cavities that would support roosting bats.

The tree does not support RFIs such as holes, cracks and splits in stems or branches; significant loose or platy bark; knot holes or cankers in which cavities suitable for supporting roosting bat have developed. Therefore the bat roost potential is negligible.