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Our ref: RS/13786/AH/V3

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Land at Stoney Wood, Barnet: Summary of Bat Tree Survey (Ground Level and Aerial Tree Inspection/Potential Roost Feature Inspection)

Following a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) carried out at the site on the 14th April 2026 (Phlorum, 2026), it was recommended that further survey work of the one tree (T1), that was considered to offer PRF-M (potential roost features of multiple bats), was undertaken. The results of the GLTA are reported in a separate report and should be read in conjunction with this report (Phlorum, 2026).

Phlorum staff were present at the site on the 26th May 2026 in order to conduct an aerial bat roost inspection/potential roost feature inspection of an identified tree on-site. The survey was carried out in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023) and in appropriate weather conditions during the optimum survey period for bats.

The survey was undertaken by suitably qualified ecologists: CEnv; Stefan Cannon BA (Hons), MSc, Amber Howie BSc (Hons), and Dr Rebecca Goldberg, PhD. All are qualified in Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue (NPTC units 206 and 306 - formerly CS38). Stefan Cannon holds a Bat Level 1 Survey Class Licence CL17 (ref: 2025-12633-CL17-BAT) and Amber Howie holds Bat Level 1 Survey Class Licence CL17 (ref:2025-12638-CL17-BAT). Stefan, Amber and Rebecca are accredited agents under Richard Schofield's Bat Level 2 Survey Class Licence CL18 (ref: 2025-13010-CL18-BAT) to carry out endoscope surveys of trees.

The aerial inspection was carried out under accepted guidance^{1, 2, and 3}, detailed information of each potential roosting feature (PRF) was recorded. This included the approximate height above the ground, aspect and cavity dimensions. The information obtained during the tree survey was used to reassess the potential of the trees to support roosting bats.

¹ BTHK (2023). *Part 1 of 3. Guide to the formation and identification of Potential Roost Features (PRF), and classification of wooded habitat.*

² BTHK (2023). *Part 2 of 3. Desk-study, Truthing & Close-inspection framework for predicting the likelihood a specific Potential bat Roost Feature (PRF) might be exploited by roosting bats, when and for what purpose.*

³ Bat Tree Habitat Key (2018) *Bat Roosts in Trees: A guide to identification and assessment for tree-care and ecology professional.* Pelagic Publishing.

We understand that the tree (T1) is to be retained under the current scope of works.

The tree surveyed was a large mature oak (*Quercus robur*), located within a small section of woodland at the northwest of the site. To the east is a small area of grassland, to the south is a concrete car park/car lot, to the west woodland and residential gardens and to the north the woodland extends into the Mill Hill Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The woodland is designated as the priority habitat, deciduous woodland.

The bulleted points below provide a summary of the survey, and photographs (Table 1) are included below, all measurements are approximate.

- There was thick ivy cladding to the trunk which extended over the majority of the trunk. The ivy was surveyed using a thermal camera to determine if any heat signatures which could indicate a roosting bat were present. This was undertaken from the ground level. No heat signatures were recorded.
- At the base of the tree was a large cavity which extended from the ground to roughly 1.5m in height. The hole was large and contained a large ant's nest which appeared to extend for a considerable length upwards into the trunk of the tree. The wood inside appeared flaking, damp, rotting in places and bug eaten. The trunk of the tree appeared to be hollowing out in places.
- A small sized hole was present at the end of on an upper branch, south facing, roughly 8m from the ground. The hole was visually inspected and measured roughly 10cm in width across the entrance. The knot hole had a shallow cavity that directed lengthways through the branch. The feature was endoscoped, which revealed there was a shallow cavity that extended for roughly 20cm in length. The internal conditions in the feature appeared dry, although there was evidence of rotting present and it appeared to contain an ant's nest. No bats or evidence of bats was observed, such as urine/grease stains or droppings. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-L.
- A southwest pointing branch, roughly 10m from the ground featured a knot hole at the end of the branch and one area of apparent lifted/cracked bark to the lower end of the branch. The hole was visually inspected. The knot hole was roughly 15cm wide and had a shallow cavity that was directed through the branch. The feature was endoscoped, which revealed there was a shallow cavity that extended for roughly 10-15cm in length, however it was relatively tight for the majority of the feature where the opening narrowed as it progressed into the branch. The internal conditions in the feature appeared dry. No bats or evidence of bats was observed, such as urine/grease stains or droppings. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-M. The cracked/lifted bark extended for roughly 30-40 cm and was visually inspected and deemed not deep enough to be a roost feature; no further action was taken for these features. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-L.

-  A moderately sized rot/knot hole was present on a large branch at the centre of the tree which was not seen during the ground level tree assessment, largely due to the angles of the surrounding branches restricting it from view. The feature was roughly 10m, from the ground and featured a large a hole space which was roughly between 20-30cm wide. The feature when endoscoped showed that the hole whilst quite large in width was relatively shallow. The feature was deemed deep enough to be a roost feature, however no bats or evidence of bats was observed, such as urine/grease stains or droppings. There appeared to be evidence of old birds/squirrels' nests including what appeared to be fur/bedding materials around the entrance. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-I.
-  A moderately sized knot hole was present on a large branch toward the centre of the tree. The feature was roughly 12m from the ground and featured a hole which was roughly 10cm wide. The feature when endoscoped appeared to have a deep cavity which appeared from the endoscope images to extend into the trunk of the tree. The wood appeared from the images to be flaking and apparently bug eaten. The feature was deemed deep enough to be a roost feature, however no bats or evidence of bats was observed, such as urine/grease stains or droppings. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-M.
-  A long cavity was present on an upper southwest facing branch, around 12m from the ground. The branch was one of the upper branches of the tree and pointed upwards at an angle. The feature was visually inspected and deemed deep enough to be a roost feature, measuring roughly 35-50cm in length. When endoscoped it was apparent that there was a cavity present which appeared quite large and extended for the length of the external void, however the endoscope did not appear to move any further into the branch or tree than the feature. No bats or evidence of bats was observed, such as urine/grease stains or droppings. The feature was assigned the roosting value PRF-M.

Summary of Works

During the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) survey of the site which was carried out as part of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Phlorum, 2025), the tree T1 was originally assessed as FAR (further assessment required) due to the time of year the survey was carried out which restricted view of the upper branches and dense ivy cladding to the trunk.

A ground level tree assessment (GLTA) was undertaken on the 14th April 2026, when the tree was out of leaf and the upper branches could be surveyed from the ground. The survey considered the tree to be PRF-M, due to the presence of moderately sized knot holes and apparent areas of loose/lifted bark and splits to one of the upper limbs and a large hole on



the upper trunk. Trees recorded as PRF-M have roost features suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

The aerial tree climb assessment carried out on the 26th May 2026 considered that three of the six potential roost features present on T1 would be most accurately classified as PRF-I (roost features only suitable for individual bats). This was based on the aerial tree inspection revealing that several of the features, were too shallow to be a potential roosting area and were therefore re-classed as PRF-I features. No roosting bats, or secondary evidence of roosting bats was discovered at the time of the survey.

Despite several of the features being classified as PRF-I features, the tree has remained as PRF-M due to the abundance of the potential roost features, its location within woodland and the apparent hollowing of the trunk.

As the tree will be retained, the only impacts anticipated from the proposed development at this stage are disturbance from noise during construction and light from the development post construction. We understand that these potential disturbance effects will be mitigated for and that during construction the trees will be protected using tree protection fencing and the root protection areas and that there will be a sensitive lighting strategy for the site post development.

We consider that as the tree will be retained, and with the proposed mitigation measures, that no further survey work is required for the tree T1.

We recommend that should works change to include plans to remove the tree, that the tree is re-inspected just before their removal (maximum 1 week before) to ensure no bats have moved into any of PRFs during the time between this inspection and their scheduled removal. If a bat is found all works must cease and emergence/re-entry surveys must be carried out in order to obtain a licence from Natural England.

Although no evidence of roosting bats was observed, the tree still contains potential bat roost features and ecologists should be consulted prior to and during any works to the tree.



We trust this has met your requirements for the tree assessment. Should you have any questions arising from the survey or this letter report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

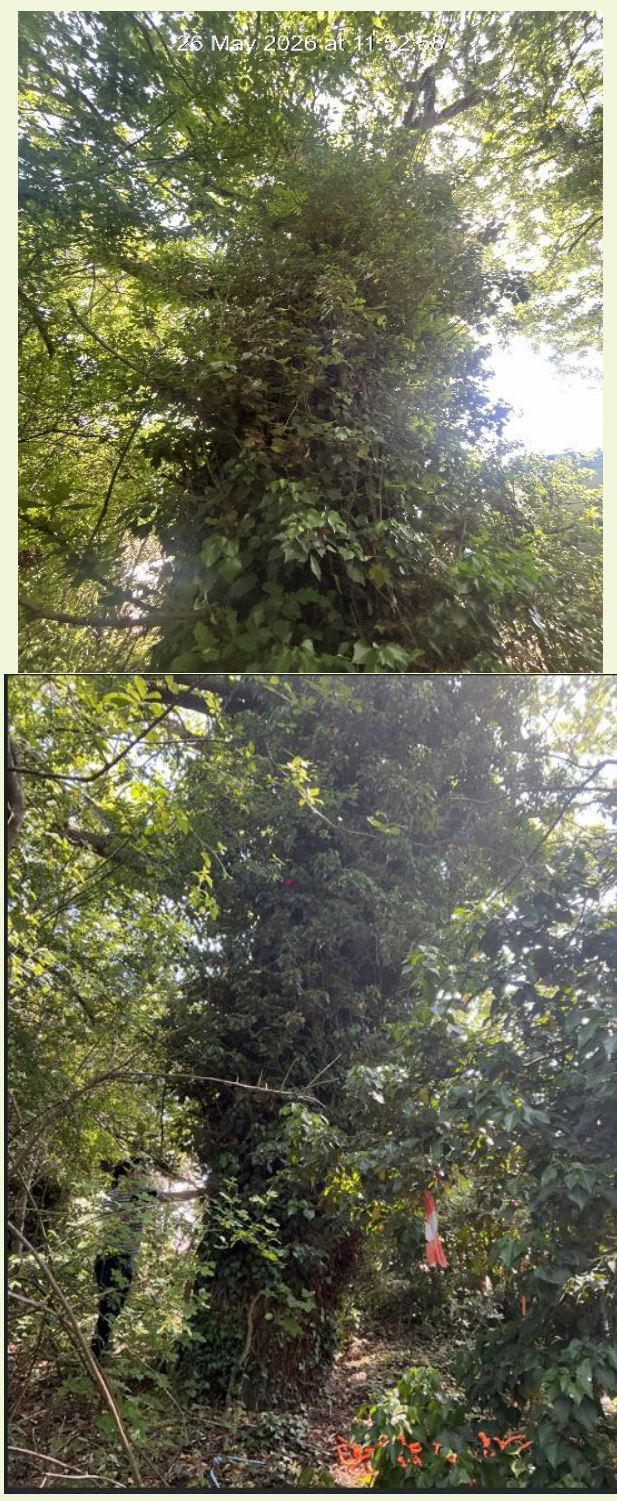
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AH".

Amber Howie
Senior Environmental Consultant

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Table 1: Photographs

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
1	Shows T1 from the ground. The trunk is covered in dense ivy	

2

Image shows PRF of the split branch

Upper image shows the PRF on the date of the ground level tree survey and the image beneath shows the PRF on the date of the tree climb



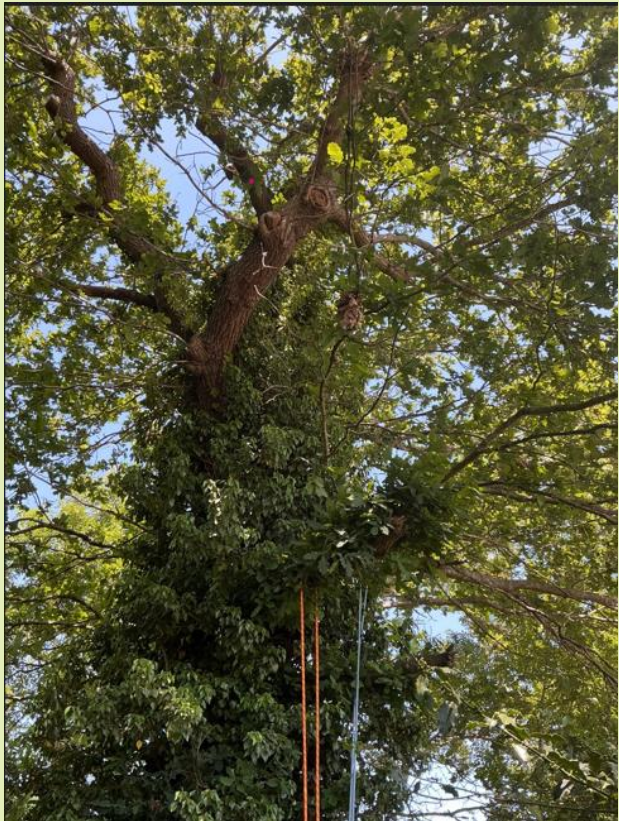
Photo No.	Description	Photograph
3	Phlorum surveyors undertook a tree climb survey to endoscope potential roost features on the upper branches	
4.	Image shows the hole present at the end of a lower branch	

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
5.	The ivy was surveyed with a thermal camera before the tree was climbed to look for roosting bats beneath the cladding	
6.	The trunk of the tree had a large opening which had a large ant's nest. The lower image shows the inside of the hole	

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
7.	Endoscope image from inside the hole on the lower branches	
8.	Endoscope image from inside a hole	

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
9.	PRF on the upper limb	

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
10	Endoscope image from inside the hole present which was only discovered once the tree was climbed	
11	Endoscope image from inside a PRF on a branch on the upper limbs	
12	External view of one of the knot holes endoscoped	

Photo No.	Description	Photograph
13	Endoscope image from inside one of the split branches on the upper limbs	
14	Endoscope image from inside one of the PRFs on a branch on the upper limbs	