



**envirotech**

Ecological Consultants  
Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors

Your Ref: 3/2016/0949

Our Ref: 3756

Chipping Homes Ltd  
Units A2-A6 Edge Fold Industrial Estate  
Plodder Lane  
Farnworth  
Bolton  
England  
BL4 0LR

Tuesday, 31 January 2017

Dear Sirs

**RE: DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 49 IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND OFF CHURCH RAIKE, CHIPPING**

Condition 49 of Application 3/2016/0949 on the above site states:

*Prior to commencement of works a further precautionary inspection/assessment of trees to be affected for their suitability to support roosting bats shall be carried out by a suitably qualified person. Should any trees have developed features suitable for roosting bats impacts on these should be avoided where possible. Should impacts be unavoidable then the protocol detailed in table 8.4 (protocol for inspection of trees) of the recognised Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, 2nd edition, 2012) shall be followed and advice sought from an appropriately qualified ecologist regarding the need for a Natural England licence.*

We can confirm that a survey of the site was undertaken by Mr Andrew Gardner, Natural England Bat Class Licence holder (Level 2) and Miss Emma Wainwright, accredited agent on Natural England Bat Class Licence (Level 2) from Envirotech NW Ltd. on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

During the surveys a check of trees and structures on site for their potential to be used by roosting bats was made. This comprised a close inspection of trees and an external visual assessment of buildings within the site to allow an assessment of their potential to be used by bats to be made by a licensed surveyor. Trees were all assessed in accordance with Collins, J. (ed) (2016).



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Figure 1 Trees proposed for removal highlighted red

It is proposed that the groups of trees indicated as G2 and G3 on Figure 1 are removed along with a series of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees referred to as G12.

During the survey G2 and G3 was recorded as being a stand of oak (*Quercus* sp.), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Trees were recorded as being of low value and were all noted as Category 3 (low) risk.

G12 were recorded as multi-stemmed, semi-mature ash. None of these trees showed cracks or crevices which would offer potential for bats to roost. They were also recorded as Category 3 (low) risk.

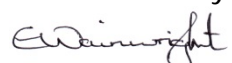
All of the trees could be adequately inspected. Risk categories from Hundt (2012) and the requirement for mitigation for each tree category are shown on Figure 2.

We consider bat species are highly unlikely to rely on these trees for roosting. There is therefore no requirement for a Natural England European Protected Species License in relation to the removal of these trees.

Tree category and description	Stage 1 Initial survey requirements	Stage 2 Further measures to inform proposed mitigation	Stage 3 Likely mitigation
<b>Known or confirmed roost</b>	Follow SNCO guidance and these guidelines wherever possible, to establish the extent to which bats use the site. This is particularly important for roosts of high risk species and/or roosts of district or higher importance and above		The tree can be felled only under EPS licence following the installation of equivalent habitats as a replacement.
<b>Category 1*</b> Trees with multiple, highly suitable features capable of supporting larger roosts	Tree identified on a map and on the ground. Further assessment to provide a best expert judgement on the likely use of the roost, numbers and species of bat, by analysis of droppings or other field evidence.  <i>A consultant ecologist is required</i>	Avoid disturbance to trees, where possible.  Further dusk and pre-dawn survey to establish more accurately the presence, species, numbers of bats present and the type of roost, and to inform the requirements for mitigation if felling is required.	Felling would be undertaken taking reasonable avoidance measures <sup>1</sup> such as 'soft felling' to minimise the risk of harm to individual bats.
<b>Category 1</b> Trees with definite bat potential, supporting fewer suitable features that category 1* trees or with potential for use by single bats	Tree identified on a map and on the ground. Further assessed to provide a best expert judgement on the potential use of suitable cavities, based on the habitat preferences of bats.  <i>A consultant ecologist required</i>	Avoid disturbance to trees, where possible. More detailed, off the ground visual assessment.  Further dusk and pre-dawn survey to establish the presence of bats, and if present, the species and numbers of bats and type of roost, to inform the requirements for mitigation if felling is required.	Trees with confirmed roosts following further survey are upgraded to Category 1* and felled under licence as above.  Trees with no confirmed roosts may be downgraded to Category 2 dependent on survey findings
<b>Category 2</b> Trees with no obvious potential, although the tree is of a size and age that elevated surveys may result in cracks or crevices being found; or the tree supports some features which may have limited potential to support bats.	None.  <i>A consultant ecologist is unlikely to be required</i>	Avoid disturbance to trees, where possible. No further surveys.	Trees may be felled taking reasonable avoidance measures.  Stop works and seek advice in the event bats are found, in order to comply with relevant legislation.
<b>Category 3</b> Trees with no potential to support bats	None.  <i>A consultant ecologist is not required unless new evidence is found</i>	None.	No mitigation for bats required.

Figure 2 Tree risk categories from Hundt (2012)

Yours Sincerely



Emma Wainwright BSc (Hons), Grad CIEEM  
Ecologist