



## Highfields, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

On Behalf of Igloo Care Ltd (Developer) and  
EQ Care Ltd (Operator)

## Ground Level Tree Assessment Addendum Report

Report Number	HIGH/24-001
Author	C. Leigh
Date	06th December 2024
First Check	J. Leigh
Final Technical Check	C. Evans

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## Proposal Site



**Figure 1: Site Extent and Location (Google Satellite, 2024)**

The site has previously undergone a Tree roost assessment (ground level) of the site, assessing trees that have been identified for removal for the presence of Potential roosting features (PRF's). It was concluded that of the trees on site that are to be removed, both 'T1814' and 'T1841' were identified as offering PRF's, mainly through the extensive stem decay leading to the internal sections of the tree or beneath loose exterior.

The previous survey was undertaken in 2022 by Phlorum, and therefore is outdated. An updated tree survey has been undertaken by ARC Arboriculture in November 2024.

38 Trees have been identified for removal to facilitate development works, with all the highlighted trees being assessed during the recent visit by Christian Leigh, Level 2 Bat surveyor: 2022-10863-CL18-BAT.

This report has been compiled in accordance with current guidelines (British Standard Biodiversity. Code of Practice for Planning and Development, 2013 and CIEEM, 2017 and 2018).

Proposals are for an outline planning application for a Care Home (C2 Use Class).



**Figure 2: Tree Categorisation showing trees to be removed.  
(ARC Arboriculture 2024).**



● Trees Previously identified to offer moderate bat roost potential.

**Figure 3: Trees previously identified to offer moderate bat roost potential.**

Figure 3 (Above) shows the results of a previous ground level tree roost assessment. Tree 1814 and Tree 1841, both identified for removal have been found to offer moderate tree roost potential previously.

## Methodology

The application site was assessed for bats.

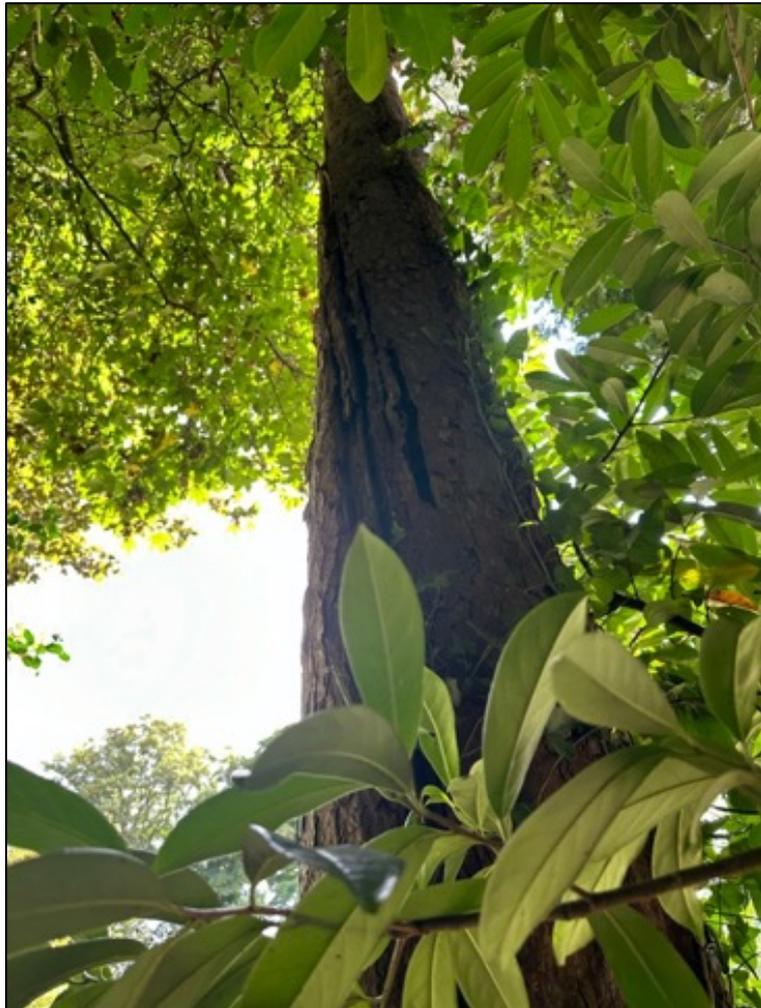
Trees (where present) were inspected for places that may be of value to bats and to determine if evidence of use was present; this typically involves a search for potential roost features along with an investigation of those features using a high-powered torch or close focus binoculars. Potential roost features can include woodpecker holes, rot holes, hazard beams, other vertical or horizontal cracks or splits in stems and branches, partially decayed lifted bark, knot holes, man-made holes, tear-outs, cankers in which cavities have developed, other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots, double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark, gaps between overlapping stems or branches, partially detached Ivy with stem diameters in excess of 50mm or bat/bird boxes. All mature trees were assessed for their potential to host roosting bats.

Criteria for preliminary bat roost assessment are based upon the determinants given in the Bat Conservation Trust - Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th ed. (2023):

The ground level tree assessment was undertaken by Level 2 Natural England Licensed Ecologist Christian Leigh; 2022-10863-CL18-BAT on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2024. All Trees identified as 'Identified for removal' were assessed during the site visit. The following pages only contain information regarding trees to be removed or affected that feature PRF's identified by ground level.

## Trees Assessment –

### Tree 1814 – Scott’s Pine



Tree 1814 was previously identified by Phlorum in 2022 for offering moderate bat roost potential. The tree suffers from stem decay which at present creates several deep slits to the internal sections of the tree. Cavity space within tree could not be assessed due to the height of the damage.

### Tree 1841- Sycamore

Tree 1841 was previously identified by Phlorum in 2022 for offering moderate bat roost potential. The tree again featured stem decay which led to the Internal cavity space. Internal cavity space within native species such as sycamore offer ideal bat roosting.

## Tree 1931 – Sycamore



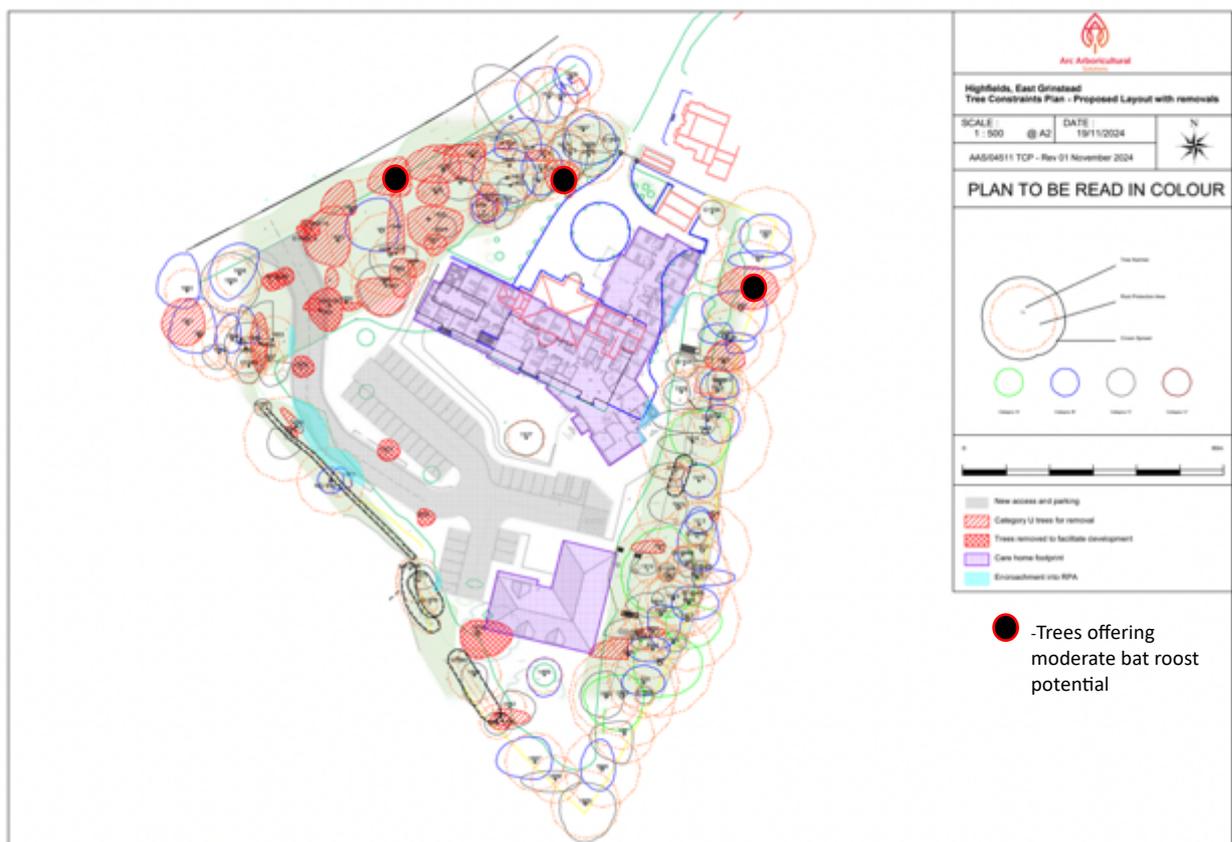
Tree T1931 featured a south facing knot hole around 10m up the trunk of the tree. This hole may directly lead to the internal composition of the tree, and subsequently offering ideal bat roosting potential. The tree is to be pollarded at the crown of the tree to allow re growth. The planned work may still have a direct impact on any bat roosting within the tree.

TREE ID (ARC Arboriculture, 2024)	Species	Comments
T1814	Scott's Pine	Tree suffers from stem decay with several prominent slits within trunk. Tree to be removed
T1841	Sycamore	Features stem decay which leads to the internal cavity space of the tree. Tree to be removed
T1931	Sycamore	Knot Hole 10m south facing within trunk which may lead to an open cavity space within the tree. Tree is only to be pollarded at crown.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The site survey identified PRF's within trees identified in Figure 3 above. It is recommended that all trees identified **be assessed via an aerial inspection survey by a qualified bat surveyor and licensed tree climber**. This is to assess each individual tree for active bat roosting directly prior to their removal and gain more accurate information of each tree.

Location of trees identified to offer PRF's seen below in figure 4. This recommendation was aided by the information within 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed, 2023' by the BCT, which suggests aerial tree inspections provide greater accuracy for the classifying of bat roosts within trees.



**Figure 4:** Leigh Ecology PRA Map, showing trees which offer moderate roost potential and are to be removed/affected.

## REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good practice guidelines. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Bat Conservation Trust. London.

Bat Conservation Trust (2023). Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. and McLiesh, A.P. (2004) Bat Workers Manual. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. JNCC, Peterborough.

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough