Land adjacent to Theatr Clwyd

Raikes Ln, Mold CH7 1YA

Bats - Ground Level Tree Assessment and Aerial Assessment Report

5th May 2026

Produced by Wildbanks Conservation

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REPORT VERIFICATION AND DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE

Report Version	Date	Completed by:	Date:	Approved by:
Final	20/11/2025	Tanya Cobb	20/11/25	M. Smith
Amended	10/12/2025	Tanya Cobb	10/12/25	M Smith
Amended	28/04/2026	Tanya Cobb	30/04/26	M Smith

The information we have prepared is true and we confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

DISCLAIMER

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C O N T E N T S

APPENDICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Ground level Tree Assessment and Arial Assessment Report has been prepared on behalf of Denbighshire County Council and provides the results of a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) and Aerial Tree Assessment (ATI) undertaken on trees at Land adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Raikes Ln, Mold CH7 1YA (approximate OS Grid Ref: SJ 24189 65238) in November 2025. This GLTA has been undertaken in conjunction with a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) authored by Marches Ecology (Marches Ecology, 2025). An assessment for the trees' historic use by breeding birds was also completed.

1.2 The GLTA and ATI were required to establish if the trees have potential to host roosting bats and outline the requirement for further surveys and/or any mitigation measures that might be needed, where relevant. If a bat or its roost/place of rest or shelter is identified and subsequently affected by the works, then a European Protected Species Development Licence, issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), would be required to proceed with the development, without potentially breaking the law.

1.3 In addition to roosting potential, the development site and surrounding habitat may also be used by bats for foraging and commuting or birds for breeding and nesting. Any loss or fragmentation of linear features or foraging areas (e.g. woodland edges, hedgerows, or open glades) should be assessed in terms of ecological functionality, with mitigation or enhancement measures proposed where necessary to maintain habitat connectivity and minimise disturbance, particularly from lighting.

1.4 The land in question comprises of mostly amenity grassland and 11 mature trees, within the redline boundary shown on Figure 1. The proposed works include building a new archive building on the land and therefore, felling all 11 mature trees. The land is from this point referred to as the "Site". A mature London plane tree (*Platanus x hispanica*) is present some 10m from the redline boundary and any roosts that may be present within this tree would be affected by the development. Therefore, it was also included within the trees to be assessed.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The Site is situated on the outskirts of Mold town and is immediately adjacent to Theatr Clwyd. Beyond the theatre the Site is surrounded by farmland to the west, north and east, and office buildings, magistrates court and Flintshire County Hall and car parks to the south. Mold town lies 750m to the south and Sychdyn village 1km to the North. The wider landscape includes both urban areas, scattered farms and farmland, and small areas of woodland.

2.2 The immediate habitat and wider landscape surrounding the site are considered to be of moderate foraging value to bats.

Figure 1. Aerial map showing development boundary outlined red. (Imagery ©2025 Airbus, Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2025)

Figure 2. Aerial map showing property boundary outlined red and wider landscape. (Imagery ©2025 Airbus, Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S, Landsat / Copernicus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2025 Google)

3.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1 To inform this Ground Level Tree Assessment Report, a desk-top study and site visit was undertaken on 6th November 2025 by Mick Smith, 18 years' experience in bat ecology, holder of NRW bat licence (licence no: S095544/1) and Tanya Cobb, 3 years' experience in bat ecology, both of Wildbanks Conservation. The Assessment was conducted in line with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

3.1.1 The Site was also assessed for nesting birds. All potential nesting areas were checked for the presence of nests/nesting material/live birds.

3.2 **Desk Top Study**

3.2.1 A desk top study was undertaken by Wildbanks Conservation Ltd using the following online resources for background information of the Site.

- MAGIC website
- Ordnance Survey maps
- Aerial photographs

3.3 **Ground Level Tree Assessment**

3.3.1 All trees located within the proposed development area were included in the assessment.

3.3.2 Trees were initially classified during the walkover survey into three broad categories:

- None – No features of interest or potential use by bats.
- FAR (Further assessment required) – Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
- PRF (Potential Roost Features) – Trees showing features likely to be used by bats, as defined in the BCT Guidelines.

3.3.3 Further assessment undertaken on trees categorised as FAR or PRF included using ladders, binoculars, high-lumen torches, inspection mirrors and endoscopes, where possible. Features such as rot holes, hazard beams, woodpecker holes, lifted bark, vertical cracks, dense ivy, or callus formations were recorded and evaluated. Trees were then re-classified according to bat roost potential as follows:

- Negligible – No suitable PRF observed.

- PRF-I (Individual use) – Small, isolated PRF suitable for single or small numbers of bats.
- PRF-M (Multiple bats) – Larger, more sheltered features potentially suitable for group or maternity roosts.

3.3.4 Any direct evidence of bat use—such as droppings, staining, feeding remains, or live bats—was noted. Conversely, the presence of dense cobwebs or detritus obstructing PRF entrances was used to infer likely absence of recent use.

3.4 Aerial Tree Inspections (ATI)

3.4.1 An ATI survey was conducted on 28th November 2025 by Tony Medcalf, holder of NRW bat licence (licence no: S095319/1). ATI surveys may involve tree-climbing and/or ladders, depending on the tree's location, PRF height and ground access. Any trees categorised as PRF-I or PRF-M within the GLTA were assessed and all potential roost features examined. A ground-based observer provided guidance to direct the climber toward visible features requiring assessment. Each tree was then re-classified according to bat roost potential as per paragraph 3.3.3, depending on whether the features were suitable for roosting bats after closer inspection.

3.5 Limitations

3.5.1 GLTAs are an approximation of bat roosting potential due to not all PRFs being visible from the ground and the extent of each feature cannot always be established accurately. Assessments were undertaken whilst the trees had lost majority of their leaf cover, therefore, increasing accuracy and visibility of PRFs from the ground.

3.5.2 It is considered that there are no significant limitations that would reduce the veracity of the conclusions or recommendations detailed within this Report.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desk Top Study

4.1.1 No statutory or local, non-statutory designated sites exist within 2km of the Site.

4.1.2 A COFNOD data search was undertaken, the results of which are summarised in Marches Ecology PEA (2025). Results of note in relation to bats include:

- Cofnod provided records for seven (species/ families) of bat for within the 1 km search area: *Chiroptera*, Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Lesser Horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), *Pipistrelle* Bat, *Pipistrelle* and *Vespertilionidae*. Further information will not be provided here as they are included in the 'confidential' Cofnod report, however a cluster of records for *Chiroptera*, Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrelle* Bat, and *Pipistrelle* are located within 500 m of the survey site.

- Amanda Davies (FCC Ecologist, pers. comm.) '*Common Pipistrelles roost in the crevices around windows at County Hall particularly this time of year (August/September). The bat boxes across the complex are mitigation for the demolition of part of County Hall 2020 but no evidence of use to date*'.

4.2 Ground Level Tree Assessment

4.2.1 All 11 mature trees within the redline boundary, and one mature tree within 10m of the redline boundary, were assessed for their suitability for bats (Table 1). Upon investigation, nine trees had no PRF's within them and two trees did have PRF's within them. These two trees will require further surveys or inspections in the form of Aerial Tree Inspections (ATI), before they can be felled (Figure 3). Appendix A3 contains photos of both trees with PRFs. Photos of the other nine trees are not presented in this Report but are available if needed.

4.2.2 All potential roost features were categorised as PRF-I, indicating they appear to be only suitable for an individual or very small numbers of bats.

Table 1: All trees identified within the redline boundary assessed for their suitability for bats. Two trees (Tree T5 and T12) were identified as having a PRF requiring further investigation before felling or disturbing operations can take place.

Tree Number	GPS Coordinates		Tree species	Initial GLTA Category	Description of Tree/PRF	GLTA PRF category (post inspection via ladders, binoculars, endoscopes etc.)
	Easting	Northing				
T1	324186	365250	Silver birch	FAR	Tree with one potential roost feature, however, this was ruled out because branch cavity did not extend into tree.	Negligible
T2	324185	365250	Silver birch	FAR	Tree with one potential roost feature within callus roll around old wound, however, this was ruled out because the callus roll was well sealed and no cavity persisted.	Negligible
T3	324180	365242	Silver birch	None	Immature tree in good condition. No PRFs identified.	N/A
T4	324182	365235	Silver birch	FAR	Tree with one potential roost feature from branch tear out and rotting, lifting bark, however, this was ruled out because cavity was too shallow to host bats and exposed to weather.	Negligible
T5	324181	365232	Silver birch	PRF	Tree with 3 potential roost features. Two were ruled out due to cavities being too shallow to support bats and one filled with water from weather ingress. One split between branch fork provides PRF too high to inspect fully from the ground. This split extends 40cm down the length of the branch. Daylight can be seen through portions of the split. Precautionary ATI survey prior to felling required.	PRF-I
T6	324182	365228	Norway maple	PRF	Tree with one potential roost feature within callus roll around old wound, however, this was ruled out because the callus roll was well sealed and no cavity persisted.	Negligible
T7	324186	365228	Norway maple	FAR	Multiple potential roost features in the form of old cut branches, however, all were ruled out because no cavity exists and callus rolls all well sealed.	Negligible
T8	324195	365236	Norway maple	FAR	Multiple potential roost features in the form of old cut branches, however, all were ruled out because no cavity exists and callus rolls all well sealed.	Negligible
T9	324200	365225	Sycamore	None	Immature tree in good condition. No PRFs identified.	N/A
T10	324196	365222	Sycamore	None	Immature tree in good condition. No PRFs identified.	N/A
T11	324191	365223	Sycamore	PRF	Tree with one potential roost feature, however, this was ruled out because branch cavity was too shallow to support bats.	Negligible
T12	324160	365263	London plane	PRF	One PRF in the form of callus roll forming around old tear wound in branch. Cavity exists within branch, in centre of callus roll. Depth of cavity cannot be ascertained from the ground during inspection. Precautionary ATI survey prior to felling required (if felling required).	PRF-I

Figure 3. Map of trees identified as having Potential Roost Features (PRFs).

4.3 Aerial Tree Inspections

4.3.1 Two trees; T5 and T12, were assessed during the ATI survey. The results of the survey are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Results of the two trees assessed during the ATI survey including their final category of potential bat use.

Tree Number	Tree species	GLTA PRF category	Description of PRF	ATI PRF category (post inspection via ladders, climbing etc.)
T5	Silver birch	PRF-I	The split between the fork of a branch was ruled out as a PRF. The split was completely open to weather and offered no shelter to roosting bats. No other PRFs were found during the ATI.	Negligible
T12	London plane	PRF-I	Cavity is present in branch. Cavity extends 15cm up branch and 2cm down branch, approximately 4cm wide. Slugs present by entrance. Feature dry and sides smoothed out. No evidence of bat use but use by individual bats cannot be ruled out.	PRF-I

4.4 Birds

4.4.1 No evidence of nesting or roosting birds was found within the trees on site, however, trees T1-T11 do provide potential bird nesting habitat in the form of open canopy suitable for pigeons and doves.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Site has been subject to a Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) on 6th November 2025, a desk-top study by Mick Smith (NRW bat licence number: S095544/1) and an Aerial Tree Inspection (ATI) survey on 28th November 2025 by Tony Medcalf (NRW bat licence number: S095319/1).

5.2 During the GLTA, one tree (Tree T5) was identified on site as having potential roost features that could be suitable for individual bats (PRF-I) and one tree within 10m of the Site (Tree T12). **Following the ATI, Tree T5 was re-classified and down-graded to negligible potential and Tree T12 continued to be categorised as having PRF-I as the feature could not be ruled out as being useable by individual bats.** Tree T12 will likely not be removed to enable the development to proceed but is in close enough proximity that a roost within it could be disturbed by the development.

5.3 All trees within the development boundary have negligible potential for use by bats and as such do not require any further survey work prior to their felling. Unless felling works are not completed within 24 months at which point the trees should be re-assessed.

5.4 No evidence of nesting birds was recorded using the Site; however, potential nesting habitat exists within all the trees on Site.

5.5 The proposed development works will disturb potential roost features for bats within Tree T12 and could affect nesting birds.

5.6 The Site is immediately surrounded by farmland to the west, north and east, and office buildings to the south. The wider landscape includes both urban areas and farmland, and scattered woodland. The immediate habitat and wider landscape surrounding the site is considered to be of moderate foraging value to bats. Any disturbance to foraging or commuting bats during construction is expected to be short-term and of low impact, provided good practice measures (such as sensitive lighting) are followed.

5.7 **Mitigation Recommendations**

Bats

5.7.1 No bat(s)/evidence of use by bats was found within trees that are to be removed to enable the development. Tree T12 is categorised as PRF-I with one feature present. Its proximity is 10m form the development site and the feature is facing away from the development site. A European Protected Species licence will not be required for felling works or for the development. Felling

works can be carried out at any time of year without further input from an ecologist in relation to bats.

5.7.2 If any unexpected bats are found during felling works, works must stop immediately, and the site ecologist will be contacted, and advice sought: **Wildbanks Conservation; 01691 623505.** A **European Protected Species (EPS) licence, issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), may be required before any further works can proceed.** No works affecting the roost may legally continue without this licence in place.

5.7.3 Tree T12 remains suitable for hosting roosting bats. No bat(s)/evidence of use by bats was found within the tree during the ATI, however, one PRF remains present, therefore, measures should be taken to minimise and mitigate any potential disturbance to roosting bats. Mitigation measures include:

- Do not light Tree T12 during construction or post-development.
- A Tree Preservation Zone should be created around Tree T12 in line with national guidance (British Standard 5837:2012), to ensure the trees is protected and that the PRF's are not impacted.
- Should Tree T12 require felling or pruning during the proposed works, a subsequent PRF inspection survey, or ATI, to confirm the absence of roosting bats should be conducted immediately prior to felling.

Lighting

5.7.4 New lighting on Site could give rise to impacts on commuting routes and deter some species of bats from foraging.

5.7.5 No direct lighting will be directed onto retained trees (e.g. T12) or newly created habitat e.g. newly planted trees, hedgerows or wildflower meadow. A buffer of 5m of surrounding habitat will be kept in darkness to preserve continuous dark corridors. This approach is to maintain suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, preventing disruption of established movement routes and ensuring ecological connectivity across the site is safeguarded.

5.7.6 Lighting during the construction period will not be switched on permanently throughout the night to avoid effects on foraging and commuting areas of light sensitive species such as brown long eared bats.

5.7.7 The external lighting scheme of the development should be designed sympathetically to reduce the potential for impacts on light sensitive bat species. Guidance on lighting schemes can be found in Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night (ILP, 2023) or on the Bat Conservation

Trust website at www.bats.org.uk. No lighting scheme has been provided at this time but conversations with the designers and client are ongoing to ensure that no adverse effects on bats or other wildlife results from lighting from the new development.

Birds

5.7.8 The disturbance and/or destruction of bird nests is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). If proposed works commence during the nesting bird season (March-September inclusive), there is potential for nesting birds to be disturbed and nests to be destroyed during the process. To avoid impacts on nesting birds, a pre-works nesting bird check of the Site should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist prior to any works taking place. If nests are identified, the nests must remain intact and undisturbed until young have fledged. No work must take place within 5m of the nest. This will provide a buffer between any works and the nest.

5.8 Compensation and Enhancement Recommendations

5.8.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW12) requires development to provide a Net Benefit to Biodiversity (NBB) i.e. a better outcome than if the site would be left undeveloped. It is also important to acknowledge that roosting habitat loss encompasses not only currently occupied roosts, but also potential and future roost sites. For bats, this typically involves replacement of potential or low-status roosts at a ratio of 1:1 or 2:1, depending on roost type, species, and local context.

Bats

5.8.2 The architectural design and structure of the proposed development does not allow for optimal integrated or wall-mounted bat roost/box provision on the new building, due to proximity of windows and lighting, direction of prevailing wind, and incompatible mounting surface. Therefore, to meet the compensation and enhancement obligation, we recommend installing a pole-mounted bat box within the northeast corner of the Site (Figure 4), close to a new area of tree planting. The box will be positioned at a suitable distance from these new trees to prevent the bat box from becoming overgrown, and inaccessible to bats, when the newly planted trees mature. The box will also be situated within commuting distance of the hedge bound farmland to the east of the Site.

5.8.3 Recommended pole-mounted bat box designs include:

- Option 1: Bespoke, 'rocket style' box, approximately 300mm x 300mm x 900mm in length. Box will have three chambers inside with gaps of between 15-25mm. The box will be mounted on an aluminium pole and positioned between 3 and 4m in height. The box will be constructed of timber and recycled plastic stock boards.

- Option 2: Dual mounted, back-to-back Large Colony Bat Boxes installed on a pole between 3 and 4m in height. The boxes are made of 780mm x 340mm x 130mm and made from Grade Plywood and treated with water-based non-toxic non-volatile wood treatment. The entrance is a 17mm wide slot with 3 internal crevices approximately 20mm wide with 3 ceramic inserts.

5.8.4 Both bat box designs can be inspected annually, outside peak bat activity season (May – September inclusive) to confirm they are fit for purpose. No internal maintenance of the bat boxes, around entrances or on the floor around the boxes will be required.

Birds

5.8.5 To compensate for the loss of bird nesting habitat in the felling of trees and clearance of the Site, and to enhance the site for birds, we recommend installing 12 Swift "S-bricks" on the southeastern elevation of the building, within the brick wall under the eaves of the building (Figure 5). Swift provision has been chosen because Swifts were added to the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BoCC5) Red List in 2021 (Stanbury, *et al.*, 2021) following a marked 5% decline in Swift populations per annum (Newell, 2021). Along with other species on the BoCC5 Red List, e.g. House Sparrow, Swifts readily nest in nest boxes and nest box provision within new developments can cause a disturbed Swift population to recover to ca. 50% of its original level within five years (Dulisz, *et al.*, 2021) and can encourage an increase in Swift populations past its original population size (Schaub, *et al.*, 2016). The Swift bricks, in particular, are considered a 'universal' nest box as

they are also preferentially used by other species, such as House Sparrows, over specific House Sparrow terraces (Newell, 2021 & Dulisz, *et al.*, 2021). Guidance on recommended Swift nest provision per developmental unit varies between local councils, however, the following suggestions have been considered: 1 nest per 6sqm of wall (n=~13 for this development) (Day, *et al.*, 2019), 1 nest per 50sqm of commercial floor space (n=~20) (Brighton & Hove City Council, 2020) or 1 per 250sqm of school/hotel/student accommodation (n=~4) (Oxford City Council, 2021). On average, this development is considered to require 12 nest opportunities.

5.8.6 The swift bricks will be installed at a minimum of 4 metres high and spaced approximately 25-30cm apart on the vertical plane. The boxes will be installed with alternating entrance orientations (left vs right entrances) to encourage maximum occupancy. No boxes will be installed directly behind the 'decorative railing' featured on the architectural drawings (Figure 5) to provide a straight flight line in and out of the boxes and to deter predators from perching on the railings and predating birds flying in and out of the boxes.

5.8.7 Swift boxes will be installed following guidance published in BS 42021:2022 Integral nest boxes - Selection and installation for new developments – Specification.

5.8.8 Swift callers should be installed during construction of the building following guidance found at Action of Swifts (n.d.). Swift callers increase box occupation success (AFS, n.d.) and will be particularly useful for the proposed development design as the swift bricks will be obscured under a prominent overhang, reducing visibility of the boxes to commuting swifts. Swift calls should be played throughout May to July (inclusive), for 3-6 hours from dawn and from 4pm until dusk, or similar times outside of the main office workday to avoid disturbing staff and visitors. The addition of Swift Callers will discourage other birds from using the boxes as they make the boxes seem occupied.

5.8.9 The nest bricks can be inspected annually, outside bird breeding season (February – September inclusive) to confirm they are fit for purpose and clear any cobwebs/ debris from the entrances. The nest bricks can be monitored from the ground during the breeding season, by looking for staining around entrance holes or observing bird access, to assess occupation rate. No internal maintenance of the Swift bricks, around entrances or on the floor around the boxes will be required, if Swift nesting takes place, as Swifts conduct their own nest sanitation by regularly swallowing chick faecal sacs during the nestling period until they fledge (Dell'omo, 1998).

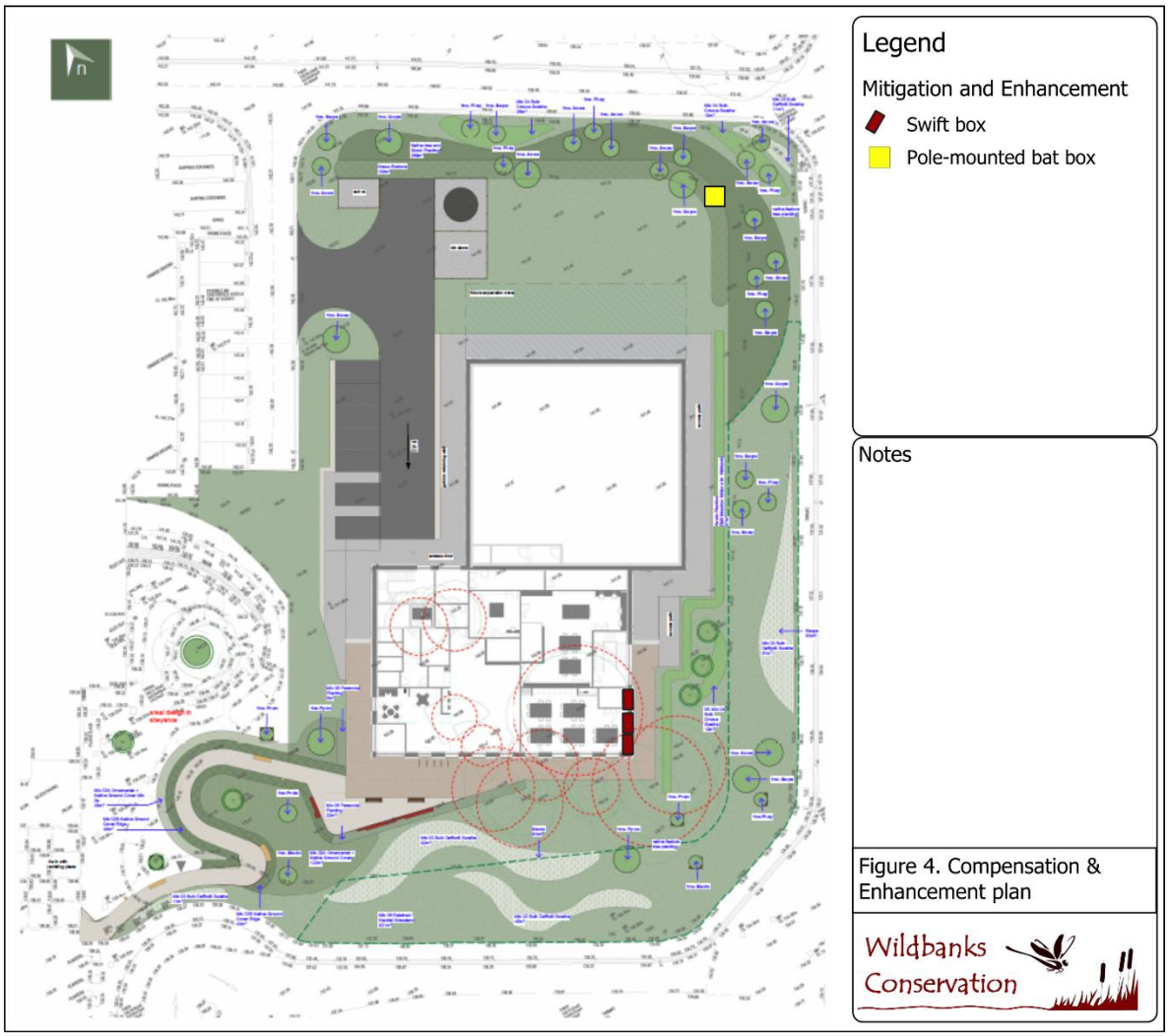

Figure 4. Indicative location of pole-mounted bat box and Swift "S-bricks" shown on an extract of the "Detailed Planting Plan" created by Fenton & Reece on 10.04.2026

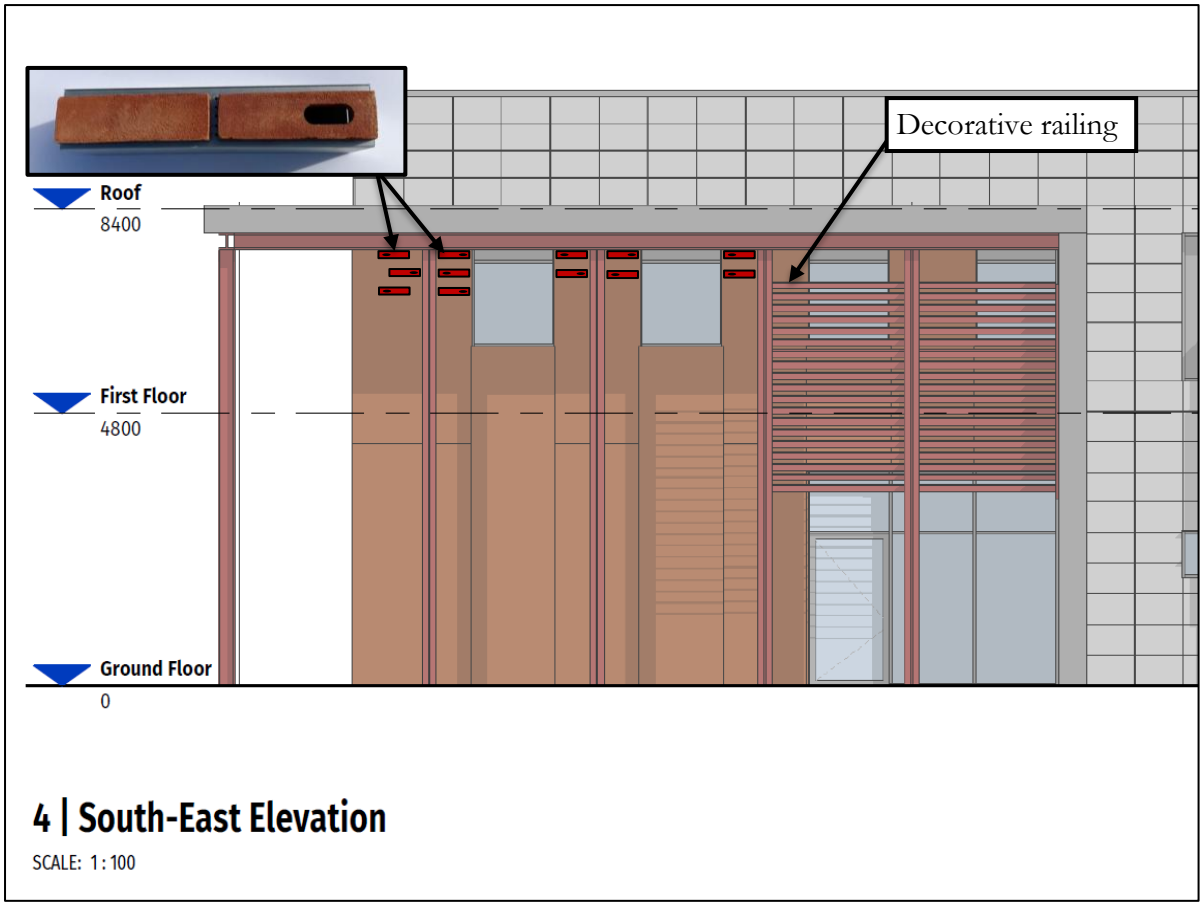

Figure 5. Indicative placement of twelve Swift "S-bricks" shown on an extract of the "Proposed Side Elevations" plan created by DB3 Group on 04.02.2026

6.0 REFERENCES

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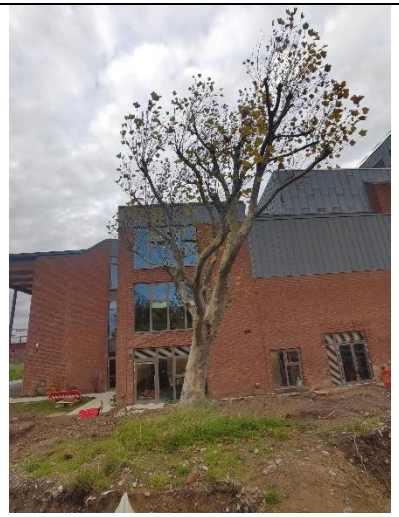
A1 APPENDIX – TREE PHOTOGRAPHS

Tree Number	Photograph	Potential Roost Features
T5 Silver Birch		  Two holes ruled out as PRF.  Split of branch fork to be inspected during ATI survey.
T12 London Plane		 Cavity within branch to be inspected during ATI survey.

A2 APPENDIX – LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

Bats

A2.1 All bat species are protected by European and/or UK legislation because of their decline across Europe and the UK. When undertaking an appraisal of a proposed development, such legislation is taken into account as follows.

- European: Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive'); and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) (the 'Birds Directive').

- UK (England & Wales): The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (the 'Habitat Regulations') which transposes the Habitats Directive in UK law; The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000; the Protection of Badgers Act 1992; the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) (2006) and the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990.

A2.2 Species such as bats (all UK species) are also protected in the UK under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

A2.3 It is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection and to possess, advertise control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead animal, or any part of one, listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

A2.4 All UK bat species are referred to as European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

A2.5 If work is proposed that would affect a European Protected Species, then a licence from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will be required. Natural Resources Wales (NRW), in exercise of the powers conferred under regulation 53(1) and 56(3) (a) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, may issue licences for the following purposes:

- Preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;

- Preventing the spread of disease; or

- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property or to fisheries; to allow people to carry out activities which would otherwise be illegal.

A2.6 Before issuing a licence under the Habitats Regulations, the licensing authority must be satisfied that "there is no satisfactory alternative" to the work as proposed and, that the proposed actions "will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species at a favourable conservation status (FCS)".

A2.7 To ensure these requirements are met, the licensing authority must have enough information to complete an assessment of the application. This includes sufficient survey data so that the roost and how it is used by bats is understood and impacts upon the roost are appropriately assessed so that mitigation and/or compensation can be designed into the proposed development that will ensure the bat population can be incorporated and maintained in the long term.

A2.8 Seven bat species are UK BAP Priority Species. These are as follows:

- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*
- Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
- Common noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Birds

A2.9 All wild bird species, their eggs and nests are protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). You must always try to avoid harming birds or to use measures which do not kill or injure them before considering taking harmful action.

A2.10 It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take wild birds, intentionally take, damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being used or built, intentionally take or destroy a wild bird's egg, possess, control or transport live or dead wild birds, or parts of them, or their eggs, sell wild birds or put them on display for sale, use prohibited methods to kill or take wild birds.

A2.11 Some birds, have additional legal protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). For these bird species it is also an offence to disturb them while they're nesting, building a nest, in or near a nest that contains their young or disturb their dependent young.

A2.12 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5) (Stanbury et al., 2021) is also taken into consideration when undertaking this appraisal.