



## **Frodsham Solar**

# **Bat Roost Suitability Inspection of Trees to be Removed**

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**Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications:  
Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations Regulation 5(2)(g)**

**Revision P01**

## Clarification Note for Frodsham Solar in response to Relevant Representations by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

### Bat Roost Suitability Inspection of Trees to be Removed

#### Introduction

##### Background and Report Purpose

This note presents information relating to bat roost suitability and addresses the matters raised in paragraph 7.84 of Cheshire West and Chester's Relevant Representation (RRt-037) which states:

*"It should be confirmed that the trees listed for removal in the Arboricultural report were surveyed for bat roosting potential. If not, Bat roosting surveys should be carried out on these trees by a suitably qualified ecologist to best practice guidelines. If evidence of protected species is found, mitigation plans and method statement of works are required and the Competent Authority may need to carry out an assessment of The Three Tests under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)."*

#### Methodology

Areas of tree removal were subject to a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2025. The inspection was undertaken by J. Stevens BSc (Hons) and K. Love MSc, both of whom are suitably competent ecologists with experience in assessing bat roosting suitability of trees and structures.

The inspection followed the GLTA methodology detailed in 'Bat surveys for professional ecologists: good practice guidelines' (Collins, 2023)<sup>1</sup>. Trees were observed from ground level with the aid of binoculars.

Suitability for roosting bats was classified as follows taken from Collins (2023) Tables 4.2:

- None: Either no Potential Roost Feature (PRF) in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.
- FAR: Further assessment required to establish if PRF's are present in the tree.
- PRF: A tree with at least one PRF present.

Where a PRF was identified, and if possible to do so from ground level, identified PRFs were assigned a suitability level as follows, taken from Collins (2023) Table 6.2:

- PRF- I: PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.

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<sup>1</sup> Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys For Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN-978-1-7395126-0-6

- PRF- M: PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

In accordance with Collins (2023) Figure 6.1, only trees subject to impacts are required to be surveyed. As such, areas of inspection were as follows (following nomenclature as used in Appendix 7.15 Arboricultural Assessment (**APP-146**)): G034, G069, A090, G099 and A106. Access was limited to G067 due to its location in proximity to Frodsham Substation, and as such this area was not subject to detailed inspection.

#### Survey Limitations

GLTA surveys of trees are best undertaken in winter when trees are not in leaf. As surveys were undertaken in October, prior to trees dropping leaves, it is possible that some PRFs may have been obscured.

#### **Results**

No trees subject to removal were identified as offering bat roosting potential using the criteria set out in Collins (2023). Trees were mostly semi-mature and not of an age or stature where bat roosting features have typically developed.

**Table 1: Summary of survey findings**

Tree/ Group Reference	Survey Results	Suitability	Photo Reference
G034	Copse of mature to semi-mature willow, alder, poplar and ash with understory of hawthorn and elder. Some trees had fractured and fallen limbs, however these were generally exposed and not offering suitable bat roosting habitat.	NONE	1
G067	No access. Scattered shrub species including hawthorn, elder and willow, unlikely be of an age or stature at which PRFs are likely.	N/A	-
G069	Group of 3 no mature elder. No PRFs identified.	NONE	2
A090	Area containing scrub and young to semi-mature trees dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with some cherry also present. No PRF identified.	NONE	3
G099	Group of young to semi-mature cherry, hawthorn, field maple, apple and spindle trees. No PRF identified.	NONE	4
A106	Area of dense willow surrounding area of wetland, while access was limited due to boggy ground, no PRF noted. Trees were typically not of an age or stature at which PRF would be expected.	NONE	5, 6

***Summary***

Trees identified as subject to removal were subject to GLTA surveys in accordance with best practice guidance. No trees with PRFs were identified during the surveys, and where access was limited, it was considered PRFs were unlikely to be present based on the age and stature of trees.

Where trees are required to be removed, measures to protect bats are outlined in the Outline Construction environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010153/DR/7.5]

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## Appendix 1: Photographs

Reference	Photograph
1	 A photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and a dense canopy of green leaves. The tree is situated in a grassy field with other trees in the background under a clear blue sky.
2	 A photograph showing a group of trees with sparse, yellowish-green foliage, standing on a grassy hillside. The trees are scattered across the slope, and the sky is clear and blue.

Reference	Photograph
3	
4	

Reference	Photograph
5	 A landscape photograph showing a field of tall, dry grasses in the foreground. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.
6	 A landscape photograph showing a field of brownish, dry grasses in the foreground. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.