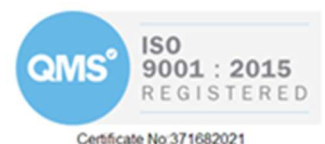


GROUND LEVEL TREE ROOST ASSESSMENT (GLTRA) FOR BATS 62 WOODLANDS PARK DRIVE, CADOXTON

Prepared for: **Mr & Mrs Huw and Sian Morgan**

By: **Steve Owen**

Date: **September 2025**



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62 WOODLANDS PARK DRIVE, CADOXTON

GROUND LEVEL TREE ROOST ASSESSMENT (GLTRA) FOR BATS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

ExCAL Ltd. have been commissioned by Mr & Mrs Huw and Sian Morgan (hereafter referred to as the client / developer) to undertake a Ground Level Tree Roost Assessment (GLTRA) on 18 trees at the rear of their property at 62 Woodlands Park Drive, Cadoxton, Neath, SA10 8AW.

The trees have previously been subjected to a tree survey (undertaken by The Arb Team in July 2025).

Based upon the results of the assessment, the client wishes to commission a number of works to the trees due to some of the trees having been assessed as possessing high risk of imminent failure or danger to public health.

A total of 18 trees were surveyed, and the woodland is covered by a Tree Protection Order (TPO) issued by Neath port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC). The proposed works include the following: -

- Reduction of Upper Crown by 2-3m – **6 trees** (961, 962, 966, 970, 972, 974);
- Reduction of Crown by 5m – **1 tree** (967);
- Removal of Tree – **3 trees** (969, 971, 978);
- Branch Reduction by 2m, (S) Side – **1 tree** (973);
- Re-Pollard and Remove Decayed Sections – **3 trees** (975, 956, 957).

The purpose of the GLTRA was to determine if there are any bats roosting within the trees on site, and to assess the importance of the trees for commuting and foraging bats.

The results of the assessment can be used to inform whether the proposed arboricultural works would compromise any roosting or commuting EPS species (particularly bats) potentially present on the site, and to establish the requirement and extent of any mitigation or compensation measures required as part of the proposed development works.

Should evidence of/potential to support bats be found during the survey however, further survey work may be required. This would likely consist of activity surveys in the form of dusk emergence surveys in order to meet planning requirements, and the number of surveys is typically determined by the level of potential the identified trees possess to support bats.

With the above in mind, the purpose of this assessment is to determine whether there are any arboricultural constraints on site which require consideration, as well as assessing whether the proposed tree for felling has any roosting potential for bats prior to the progression of any developmental works.

1.2 Scope

A total of 18 trees were surveyed as part of the GLTRA undertaken at 62 Woodlands Park Drive, Cadoxton. The results of the tree survey undertaken by The Arb Team were used to support the ground level assessment, and individual assessments of each tree were made for their potential to support roosting bats. The trees were also assessed in their wider and collective context for their potential to support commuting and foraging bats.

The success of the recommendations set out in this report are dependent on the development adhering to the principles set out within, which are to be approved and enforced by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). If the recommendations contained within this document (where relevant) are acceptable to the LPA then we suggest that they be controlled by standard planning conditions and arboricultural supervision at key stages of the development.

1.3 General Limitations

The results of this report are valid at the time of the walkover inspection and writing (September 2025).

This report has been prepared for the benefit of the client and its contents should not be relied upon by others without the written authority of ExCAL Ltd. Unauthorised third party use of this report is done so at the parties' own risk and ExCAL Ltd owe these parties no duty of care or skill.

1.3.1 Ground Level Tree Roost Assessment Limitations

Surveying trees and scrub for bat roosts can be more challenging than surveying buildings, since many species which utilise trees for roosting are known to exhibit roost switching behaviours. These include; Bechstein's bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, Leisler's bat, noctule, common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat (Harris and Yalden, 2008, Dietz *et al.*, 2011).

Furthermore, it should be noted that some of the evidence (such as squeaking, odour) may be the result of other animals, such as birds and squirrels, whilst staining may be indicative of wet rot as opposed to urine staining from bats, which would prohibit the presence of a roost in this location. Direct evidence of bats such as visual sightings or from droppings are therefore the only truly conclusive evidence of a roost, and many roosts do not exhibit and external signs of their presence.

Additional difficulties inherent in finding tree-roosting bats include: -

- Droppings do not persist in trees in the same manner as they do in buildings;
- Trees and woodlands are dynamic, and continually subject to change (some PRFs for bats such as lifting of bark can be particularly unstable);
- Some tree features cannot be safely accessed for inspection (such as dead / dying limbs and bark);
- Some tree-roosting bats echolocate very quietly (sometimes, not at all), making them difficult to detect using bat detectors;
- Some tree-roosting bats emerge from their roosts very late and return very early;
- Emergence surveys are often constrained due to the height of tree roosts above ground level, and due to restricted observation due to foliage or lack of light beneath the tree canopy.

It should be noted that, as the name suggests, GLTRAs are undertaken from ground level. Subsequently, some potential roosting features for bats can be missed for a number of reasons, including being situated too high up in the tree to be viewed from the ground, and from obstruction (from foliage / dense branches etc.), leading to a potential underestimation of roost suitability.

Furthermore, GLTRAs are typically most effective during winter and are less effective during the summer growing season when foliage can obscure potential roosting sites.

The above difficulties can therefore reduce the likelihood of roost discovery, even if present. As such, although survey work on individual trees may confirm presence, it is far more difficult to conclusively confirm absence.

The above survey limitations are considered to be unavoidable, and are concluded to have had a minimal impact on the robustness of the GLTRA. It is considered therefore that there were no significant limitations to the survey works.

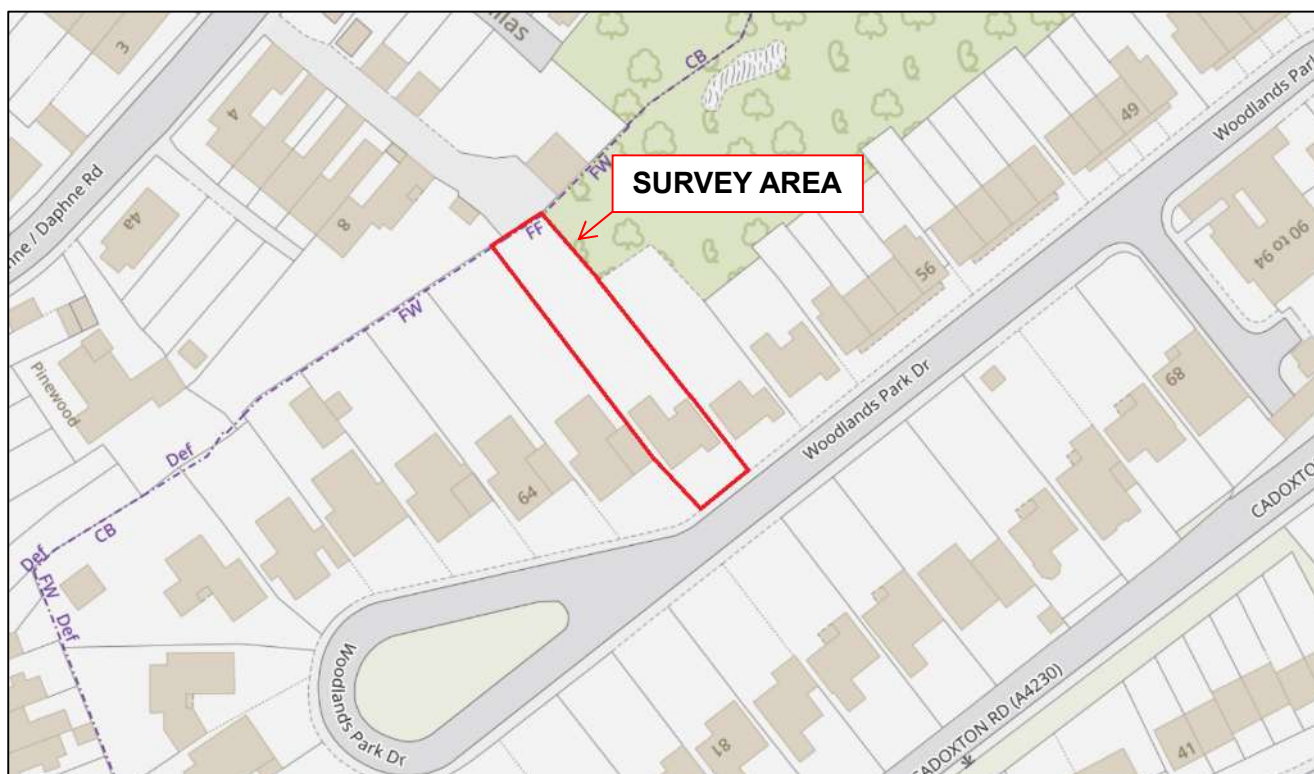
2.0 SITE LOCATION

The survey location is centred approximately at Grid Reference: SS 75279 98427, and the address of the site is listed below: -

62 Woodlands Park Drive
Cadoxton
Neath
SA10 8AW

The location of the survey area is visible in Figure 1 below: -

Figure 1 – Survey Area Red Line Boundary



The survey site is accessed via Woodlands Park Drive, which runs along the southern side of the site boundary.

The immediate surrounding area is urban, characterised by residential houses and gardens, whilst the northern site boundary is bounded by ancient deciduous woodland, which is covered by a TPO issued by the Local Authority.

3.0 GROUND LEVEL TREE ROOST ASSESSMENT SURVEY

This report has been designed to comply with BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development*; the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition (CIEEM, 2017) and Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Survey Guidelines, Fourth Edition (Collins, J. 2023).

A total of 18 trees were subjected to a detailed inspection to assess their potential to support roosting bats.

3.1 Desk Study

Local Record Searches were undertaken using Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs 'MAGIC' geographic mapping software and the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales 'DataMapWales' in order to determine the importance of the site from a biodiversity perspective in the context of its surroundings, and to determine the site's proximity to statutory designated sites within 1km of the survey area (if present).

3.2 Field Survey

The ground level tree roost assessment was undertaken by Steve Owen, a licenced surveyor (NRW Licence no: **S093409/1**) on the 10th September 2025.

The assessment considered all trees and shrubs located within the red line boundary as indicated on Drawing 415-01-01.D01 – Surveyed Trees, visible in Appendix A.

The aim of the survey method outlined below is to establish the potential for the trees within the site boundary to support roosting bats. The gathered information is then used to inform an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed works and to ascertain whether further surveys are required and/or to devise an appropriate and proportionate mitigation strategy.

The purpose of the field survey was to: -

- Identify any suitable arboreal features that could provide access points for bats, including; loose, flaking or folded bark, cracks and fissures in limbs, woodpecker holes, or any downward-facing crevice or hole in the limbs or trunk;
- Identify signs indicating possible use by bats, such as; scratches, rub marks and staining around access points, or bat droppings in around or below access points.

The inspections were undertaken during daylight hours from ground level. All areas which required surveying were visible from the ground, and surveyed for potential access/egress points for evidence of use by bats.

3.3 Ground Level Tree Roost Assessments for Bats

A GLTRA consists of a detailed inspection of the exterior of the tree from ground level to look for features that bats could use for roosting (Potential Roosting Features, or PRF's), and evidence of bats.

The aim of the survey is to determine the actual or potential presence of bats, and make recommendations for further surveys and/or mitigation as required.

The inspection is undertaken systematically and consistently around all parts of the tree (from all angles and from both close proximity to the trunk and from further away) to ensure that no PRF's are missed. PRF's at higher level can be identified by shining bright torches on cavities and shaded areas of the branches, and binoculars can subsequently be used to focus on the PRF in more detail.

During the GLTRA, the following evidence was sought: -

- The presence of potential access and egress routes for bats into and out of PRF's, and evidence of the use of such potential access points by bats such as scattered droppings, urine staining or scratching around entrances;
- Bat corpses or skeletons;
- Feeding remains;

- Bat droppings in, around or below a PRF;
- Audible squeaking;
- Odour emanating from a PRF;
- Staining or wear beneath the PRF;
- Likely commuting routes and nearby habitat assessment for potential use by bats;
- Any other signs of use by bats including the presence of bats themselves.

In addition, the overall site and its wider surroundings were evaluated for the potential to support commuting and/or foraging bat species.

Inspections were undertaken during daylight hours and were aided by the use of a high-powered torch. All areas potentially accessible to bats were searched for evidence.

Bats regularly utilise specific areas within trees which were searched as a priority for any bat field signs.

Examples of these PRF's are outlined below: -

- Woodpecker or squirrel holes;
- Rot holes;
- Hazard beams;
- Other vertical or horizontal cracks and splits (such as those caused by frost) in stems or branches;
- Partially detached plates of bark;
- Knot holes arising from naturally shed branches, or branches previously pruned back to the branch collar;
- Man-made holes (for example, cavities which have developed from flush cuts) or cavities created by branches which have been torn away from parent stems;
- Cankers (caused by localized bark death) in which cavities have developed;
- Dense areas of ivy;
- Tree fluting;
- Other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots;
- Double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark and potential cavities;
- Gaps between overlapping stems or branches;
- Partially detached ivy, with stem diameters in excess of 50mm;
- Bat, bird or dormouse boxes.

Roosting bats and signs of their presence are not always visible, so any potential bat roosting locations were also noted during the survey.

If any of the above PRF's is identified during the survey, the following further information about the PRF should be recorded:

- Description of the PRF location on the tree in question;
- The height of the PRF above ground level;
- The orientation of the PRF in relation to the trunk;
- The orientation of the access/egress point to the PRF.

Where suitable roosting habitat (**moderate** or **high** suitability) or evidence of bats is found during a GLTRA, then further surveys such as PRF inspection surveys, presence / absence surveys or roost characterisation surveys are likely to be necessary, if impacts on the roosting habitat or bats using it are predicted.

If **no** PRF's or PRF's of **low** suitability are found, then no further survey effort is required. Where this is the case, it is important to document how this decision has been reached, with photographs and detailed descriptions being provided to ensure that a robust survey and assessment has been undertaken.

Where PRF's of **low** suitability have been identified, it may be appropriate to undertake precautionary measures during felling/pruning activities (such as limb felling, if proposed), and leaving any PRF's on felled branches facing upward for a period of 24 hours prior to disposal, to ensure any wildlife can vacate safely.

Where ground level surveys are inconclusive and/or where PRF's may be present at height, further survey work may still be necessary in order to ensure that all PRF's have been surveyed accordingly

3.3.1 GLTRA – Assessment Criteria

All semi-mature or mature trees that may have a level of potential for a roost were assessed using the Cowan Scale (Cowan, 2006). The following values were assigned in considering the availability of suitable features for roosting bats: -

0 – No Value: Negligible visible features which could be used by bats for roosting.

1 – Low Value: One or two minor features, possibly associated with feeding or night-time roosts, such as: -

- Sparse ivy (*Hedera helix*);
- Minor branch splits or fissures;
- Small areas of loose bark;
- Features less than 10 years old.

2 – Moderate Value: Features which may provide a more secure site for individual or small groups of bats, such as: -

- Dense ivy;
- Significant branch splits;
- Small cavities such as woodpecker holes;
- Features present for >10 - <30 years.

3 – High Value: Features of particular significance, suitable for high priority roosts (such as maternity roosts) and likely to be used by larger groups of bats, such as: -

- Features which provide rare or uncommon conditions in the local vicinity;
- Large cavities or extensive branch or trunk splits;
- Multiple features present within the same tree;
- Features present for >30 years which could have been used by several generations of bats.

4 – Confirmed Roost: Evidence indicating use by bats, such as: -

- Droppings, carcasses, feeding remains;
- Bats heard 'chattering' inside on a warm day or at dusk;
- Bat seen roosting within or observed flying from a feature

3.4 Desktop Study

3.4.1 Statutory Designated Sites

A desk-based assessment was carried out in September 2025.

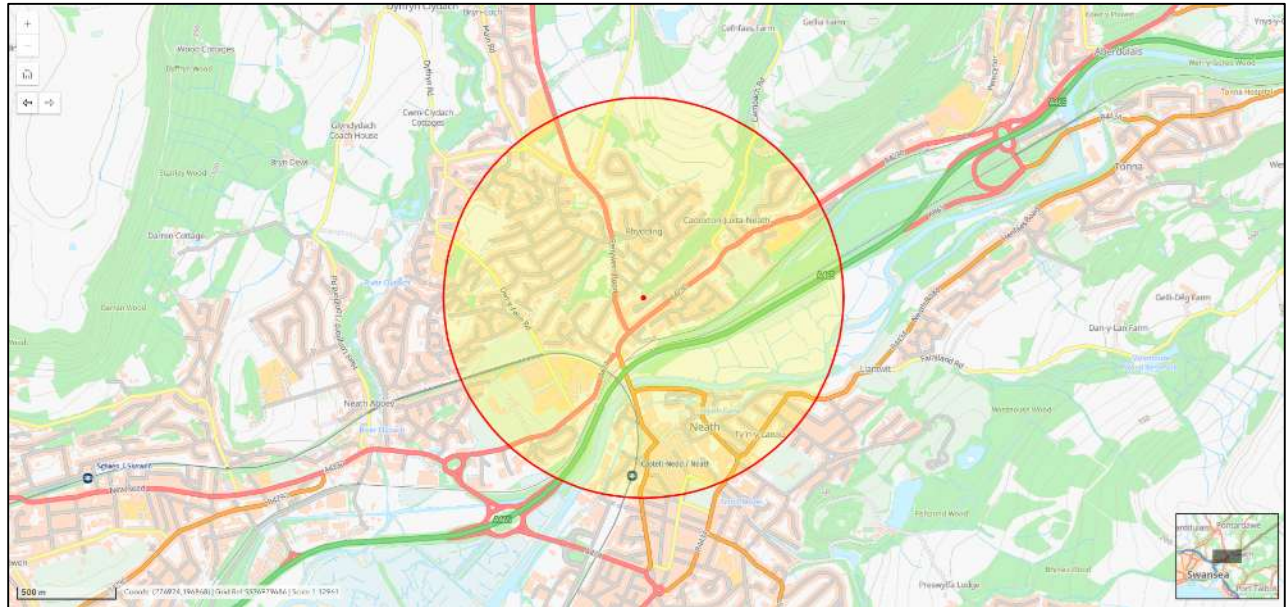
Online ecological data was obtained from the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales partnership resource 'DataMapWales' and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 'MAGIC' resource.

This search included a designated site search, whereby sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), as well as areas of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) within 1km of the site would be highlighted. The presence of features or habitats which add to the ecological value of the site within the wider area and landscape, such as: woodland, hedgerows, watercourses, linear features etc. are also identified and assessed in order to determine how they characterise and enhance the ecological value of the general landscape.

No Statutory Designated Sites are present within 1km of the survey area.

The survey site and 1km buffer for Statutory Designated Sites is visible in Figure 2 below: -

Figure 2 – 1km Search Buffer for Statutory Designated Sites (Adapted from MAGIC)



3.4.2 Ancient Semi-Natural / Restored Woodlands

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) consist of broadleaf woodlands comprising mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years. The ground vegetation typically reflects the naturalness of these woodlands and will frequently feature species which provide clear indication of long and continued woodland cover.

Restored Ancient Woodland Sites (RAWS) meanwhile consist of woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. They will have gone through a phase when canopy cover will have been more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50% broadleaf.

Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category include woodlands which may be ASNW, RAWS or Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These areas are predominantly in transition where the existing tree cover is described as shrubs, young trees, felled or ground prepared for planting.

A total of 6 records of ancient woodlands were identified in the 1km survey area. The ancient woodlands, along with designation and distance from site are outlined below: -

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland – 5 Records

- 5m (NW) - (ASNW) - 10.87 ha;
- 815m (NE) - (ASNW) - 0.11 ha;
- 822m (NE) - (ASNW) – 0.43 ha.
- 865m (NE) - (ASNW) – 0.24 ha.
- 905m (NE) - (ASNW) – 0.75 ha.

Restored Ancient Woodland Site – 1 Record

- 910m (NE) - (RAWS) – 16.46 ha;

3.4.3 Tree Protection Orders

A Tree Protection Order (TPO) makes it an offence to top, lop, uproot, take down, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree, trees or woodland such that its amenity value is diminished, unless it is by agreement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Certain circumstances do, however, enable trees with TPOs to be worked on. Circumstances include: -

- Normal arboricultural maintenance work to preserve, enhance or mitigate nuisance aspects of the tree's growth, undertaken to professional standards with LPA agreement;
- Elimination of hazards presented by dead or damaged trees or limbs to the extent required to mitigate the risk where the tree is not immediately dangerous. Significant harm must be both foreseeable and be expected to arise within 8 weeks. At least 5-days' written notice must be given to the LPA;
- Elimination of immediately dangerous hazards presented by dead or damaged trees or limbs to the extent required to mitigate the risk;
- Removal of dead branches;
- A number of other specific circumstances that do not apply here, but which include; granting of full planning permission, compliance with Acts of Parliament, activities of Statutory Undertakers (for example, utility providers), horticultural maintenance of trees for fruit production etc.

Any work not falling within any of these exemption categories requires a formal application to be made to the LPA using the standard application forms for tree work. It should also be noted that similar restrictions apply to all trees over 75mm in diameter when measured at 1.5 metres from ground level if they are in a conservation area.

The woodland behind the property in which the trees to be surveyed are located is both classified as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, and has been subject to a TPO by NPTCBC.

Consideration and permission will be required from NPTCBC prior to works being undertaken on these trees, and the works will likely require that an application is made to NPTCBC for approval to undertake works on TPO classified trees.

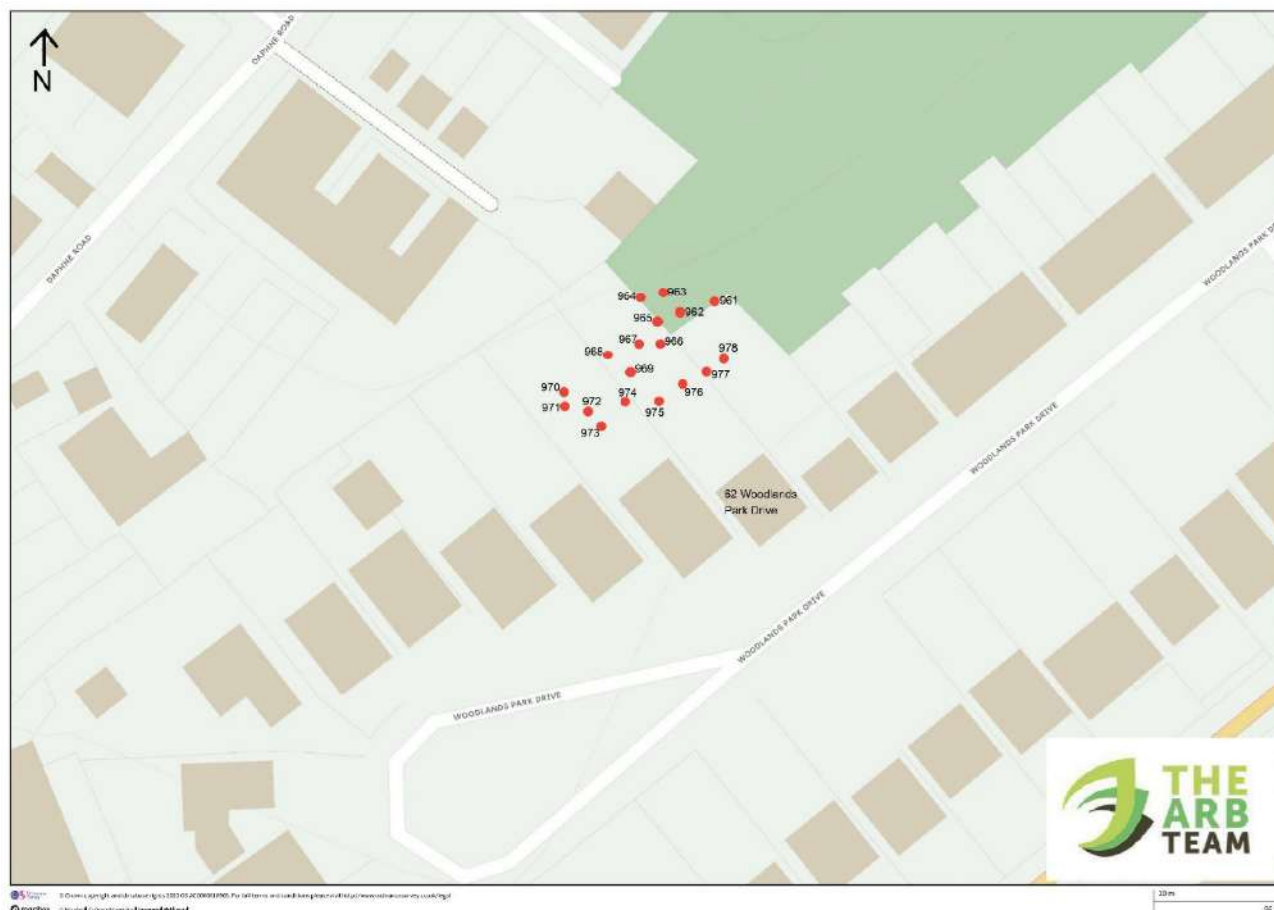
4.0 SUMMARY OF TREE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE ARB TEAM, JULY 2025

The survey site was subjected to an arboricultural assessment by The Arb Team in July 2025.

A total of 18 trees were surveyed as part of this survey, and an assessment of the health of each tree, along with recommended works based upon the results of the survey were made.

The location of the surveyed trees are visible in Figure 3 below: -

Figure 3 – Surveyed Trees



A summary of the survey results is visible in Table 1 below: -

Table 1 – Tree Schedule from Arboricultural Report undertaken in July 2025 by The Arb Team

Tree Number	Species	Age	Size	PC	SC	Observations / Recommended Works	Cat.	Risk
#961	Horse Chestnut	M	VL	F	F	An asymmetric crown with the main growth to the south above the garden. Heavy leaf miner (<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>) infestation. Reduce upper crown by 2-3m.	2	H
#962	Sycamore	EM	VL	F	F	Reduce upper crown by 2-3m.		
#963	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	A whip type tree suppressed by the adjacent trees. No recommended works.		
#964	Sycamore	M	VL	F	F	Main stem divides into two at 3m above ground level, with a large bark wound on the south side of the lower stem. No recommended works.		
#965	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	A whip type tree suppressed by the adjacent trees. No recommended works.		

#966	Sycamore	EM	VL	F	P	An asymmetric crown with a bark wound at 1.5m above ground level on its south side. Reduce upper crown by 2-3m.		
#967	Sessile Oak	SM	VL	P	D	Sparse foliage and a very poor form. 2m vertical bark wound with decay on both side of the main stem at 2.5m above ground level Reduce crown by 5m.		
#968	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	No comments. No recommended works.		
#969	Holly	EM	M	D	P	Low vigour and sparse foliage with advanced crown dieback. Suppressed by the adjacent trees. REMOVE TREE.		
#970	Sycamore	EM	M	F	P	A very poor form and suppressed by the adjacent trees, Reduce the crown on the south and west side by 2-3m.		
#971	Holly	EM	S	D	D	Advanced crown dieback and suppressed by the adjacent trees. Large areas of bark necrosis on the main stem. REMOVE TREE. Prior to removal, check that this tree is not in direct contact and possibly supporting tree #970.		
#972	Sycamore	M	VL	F	F	Stem divides at 2.5m above ground level. Included bark in the main fork. Reduce the crown by 2-3m.		
#973	English Elm	SM	M	F	P	A very poor unbalanced form. Twin stems dividing from ground level. Reduce the branches on the south side by 2m.		
#974	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	An asymmetric crown with a very poor form. Reduce crown by 2-3m.		
#975	Sycamore	EM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds, small diameter branch suspended in the lower crown on south side. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.		
#976	Sycamore	SM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.		
#977	Sycamore	SM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Bark necrosis and a small compartmentalising basal cavity on the south facing side due to previous branch removal. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.		
#978	Holly	EM	S	D	D	Dead. REMOVE TREE.		

Key:**Tree / Group #:** Numerical order, tag numbers #961 to #978**Species:** Common names for each species;**Age:** Assessed by considering species and environment. **Y** – Young, **SM** – Semi Mature, **EM** – Early Mature, **M** – Mature, **OM** – Over Mature, **V** – Veteran;**Size:** **S** – Small (Trees <10m in height), **M** – Medium (Trees 10 – 15m in height), **L** – Large (Trees 15 – 20m in height), **VL** – Very Large (Trees >20m in height)

PC: General **Physiological Condition** of the tree. This assessment is based on bud and leaf density, leaf size and colour, annual extension growth and wound closure indicators.

G – Good, **F** – Fair, **P** – Poor, **D** – Dead, Dying or Dangerous.

SC: The general **Structural Condition** of the tree. This assessment is based on the tree's biomechanical strength and involves the evaluation of visible defects and their indicators in the tree's rooting area, trunk, branch unions and limbs.

G – Good, **F** – Fair, **P** – Poor, **D** – Dead, Dying or Dangerous.

Observations: As and when stated.

Cat. (Category): Recommended time periods for works is as follows: -

Category 1 (Red) – If combined with a high risk (**H**) due to the possibility of imminent failure or danger, all recommended works should be completed as soon as possible / practicable;

Category 2 (Blue) – Trees with various structural weaknesses or problems which require remedial works. Works should be completed within 1 year of the date of the report, or sooner if possible;

Category 3 (Green) – Trees with minor defect and problems which require remedial or aesthetic work. These works should be completed within 2 years of the date of the report, or as budgets allow.

Risk: This is a best predicted assessment for the level of evaluated risk taking into consideration the likelihood and consequences of any tree failure. The following factors are considered as part of the risk assessment process – all static and mobile targets, the occupancy rate (the length of time the target is within the probable area of impact), any natural protection that may be present and its resistance to an impact, the physiological and structural condition of the tree, the most likely part of the tree to fail, and its size and weight.

L – Low, **M** – Medium, **H** – High.

A summary of the proposed recommended works based on the arboricultural survey results is visible in Table 1 below: -

Table 2 – Summary of Recommended Works

Proposed Works	Tree Number
Re-Pollard & Remove Decay	975, 976, 977
Reduce Upper Crown by 2-3m	961, 962, 966, 970, 972, 973, 974
Reduce Upper Crown by 5m	967
Remove Tree	969, 971, 978
No Works Proposed	963, 964, 965, 968

Based upon the results of the tree survey, the above trees were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats as part of the GLTRA, to ensure that the proposed works do not impact detrimentally on bats which may be using features present within the trees on site.

5.0 GROUND LEVEL TREE ROOST ASSESSMENT AND TREE SURVEY RESULTS

The BCT document 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines' recently updated the guidelines for categorising the potential suitability of trees to support roosting bats.

All potential roosting features for bats are now categorised into two distinct categories. These categories are visible in Table 4 below: -

Table 4 – Guidelines for Categorising the Potential Suitability of PRFs on a Proposed Development Site for Bats, to be applied using Professional Judgement

Suitability	Description
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

It should be noted, however, that where larger numbers of trees are present on a site which have been categorised as PRF-I, then this increases the likelihood of a roost being present.

Conversely, if there are very few trees in the landscape, then PRF-I features may have increased importance. The context of the site should subsequently be understood before making recommendations for further survey work.

Where trees have been classified, the following survey work is recommended, based upon classification: -

Table 5 – Recommended Survey Work based on Tree Roost Suitability

Low Roost Suitability or PRF-I	Moderate Roost Suitability	High Roost Suitability or PRF-M
No further surveys required for trees	Minimum of 1 Presence / Absence Survey between May & August	Minimum of 2 Presence / Absence Survey between May & August

The above guidance was utilised to categorise any PRFs identified during the GLTRA walkover survey. The results of the survey are outlined in the following section.

5.1 Results of GLTRA for Bats

The ground level tree roost assessment was undertaken by Steve Owen, a licensed surveyor (NRW Licence no: **S093409/1**) on the 10th September 2025.

The results of the GLTRA for bats are available for review in Table 6 below: -

Table 6 – Results of GLTRA for Bats

Tree / Tag Number	Species	Notes	PRF-I / PRF-M / N/A	Roosting Potential (0-4)	Roost Found?	Proposed Works	Implications for Proposed Work
1 #961	Horse Chestnut	Possesses a tearout in one of the branches at approximately 2.5m which was inspected for evidence of bats, with none found. Bark in generally good condition, with some limited ivy growth being identified.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
2 #962	Sycamore	Tree in generally good condition, with bark in good condition. Small amount of ivy growth which may be used by individual bats.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
3 #963	Sycamore	Smooth bark with no cracks, lifting or damage. Small amount of ivy, but unlikely to be dense enough to be utilised by bats.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	No Works	No further survey work required
4 #964	Sycamore	Very large tree which divides into two at ~3m height. Bark wound on (S) side of	PRF-I	1 - low	No	No Works	No further survey work required

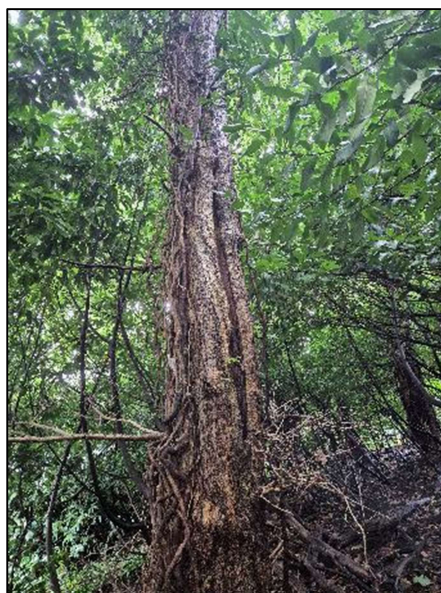
		lower stem. The wound was inspected for evidence of bats, with none being identified. Small amount of ivy present at lower level of tree.					
5 #965	Sycamore	Bark of tree in good condition, with no lifting or cracks suitable for bats being identified. A small amount of ivy present, although this is too sparse to support bats.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	No Works	No further survey work required
6 #966	Sycamore	Small wound present at 1.5m height. Wound was inspected for evidence of bats, with none being found, but the wound was assessed to provide potential roosting opportunity for individual opportunistic bats. Tree possesses a moderate amount of ivy, which stops approximately 4m from the top of the tree, and subsequently will not be impacted by the works.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
7 #967	Sessile Oak	Very large tree in poor condition. 2m vertical bark wound present on (N) side of tree. The wound was inspected for evidence of bats, with none being identified. Although the wound appears to be of potentially sufficient size to provide space for multiple roosting bats (PRF-M), upon closer inspection, it was observed that the wound does not proceed into the core of the tree, and subsequently does not provide sufficient space or shelter to support a large number of roosting bats, due to being exposed to external elements. Ivy growth is present, but stops approximately 7m from the top of the tree. Condition of bark improves with height on the tree.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (5m)	The proposed works will not directly impact upon the wound identified during the survey, with the top 5m of the tree being reduced. No evidence of bats was identified during survey and the wound appears to be superficial, and does not continue upwards or downwards further into the trunk of the tree. No further survey work required
8 #968	Sycamore	Tree in generally good condition, and possesses very smooth bark, with no areas of damage being recorded. The tree possesses a moderate amount of ivy, up to ¼ of the total height of the tree.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	No Works	No further survey work required
9 #969	Holly	No significant areas of damage recorded to the bark or branches of the tree, and the tree possesses a smooth bark. Some ivy growth noted which may be utilised by individual bats..	PRF-I	1 - low	No	REMOVE TREE	No further survey work required
10 #970	Sycamore	Very smooth bark with no areas of lifting, cracks or damage being recorded which may support roosting bats. Some ivy growth noted, but too sparse to support roosting bats.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	(S) & (W) crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
11 #971	Holly	Bark in poor condition, with large areas of necrosis and some small cracks being noted. Limited ivy present on tree.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	REMOVE TREE	No further survey work required
12 #972	Sycamore	Slight gnarling of bark noted, with stem dividing into 2 at 2.5m height, but tree in generally good condition. No evidence of bats recorded. Some ivy is present on the tree, but not within the proposed working area toward the top of the tree.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
13 #973	English Elm	Ridged bark, and tree in poor condition, but no sufficient areas suitable to support roosting bats. No ivy present on tree, and no suitable PRFs recorded.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	Reduce (S) branches (2m)	No further survey work required
14 #974	Sycamore	Tree in generally poor condition, although no suitable areas of damage, cracks or lifting of bark being identified which may support roosting bats. Small amount of ivy present on the tree, which may be utilised by individual bats.	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
15 #975	Sycamore	Very little ivy, and bark in generally good condition, with no suitable PRFs being identified.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	Re-pollard & Remove Decay	No further survey work required

16 #976	Sycamore	Generally smooth bark with no holes or suitable cracks being recorded. Very sparse ivy growth on trunk with no suitable PRFs for bats being recorded.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	Re-pollard & Remove Decay	No further survey work required
17 #977	Sycamore	Generally smooth bark with no holes or suitable cracks being recorded. Very sparse ivy growth on trunk. Small area of tearout / necrosis at low level on south side was assessed for potential to support roosting bats, with no suitable PRFs for bats being recorded.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	Re-pollard & Remove Decay	No further survey work required
18 #978	Holly	Tree is dead, but no areas of rot were recorded, and the bark is in good condition considering the overall condition of the tree. No ivy growth recorded on the tree, and no suitable PRFs for bats identified.	N/A	0 - negligible	No	REMOVE TREE	No further survey work required

All of the trees were identified to possess low or negligible potential (PRF-I) to support roosting bats, and subsequently, no further recommendations are made with respect to bats on these trees.

One of the surveyed trees, namely #967 – Sessile Oak, possesses a large wound on the bark at 2.5m height above ground level. Images of this wound are visible in Figures 4 & 5 below: -

Figures 4 & 5 – Bark Wound Identified on Tree #967 (Sessile Oak) During GLTRA Survey



Although upon first appearance, the wound looks of sufficient size and space to enable multiple bats to roost within the tree (PRF-M), upon closer inspection, the interior of the wound does not continue upwards or downwards further into the core trunk of the tree. Subsequently, the wound does not provide sufficient space or shelter from external elements to be utilised by multiple roosting bats.

Inhabited cavities within trees are typically smooth, and bats require clean, dry cavities to utilise for roosting purposes (Bat Tree Habitat Key, 2023). The interior of the cavity was observed to be damp, and the walls were knobbly/spongy during the survey, further suggesting that the cavity is not suitable for use by multiple bats.

There is, however, still the potential that the wound could be utilised by individual bats should circumstances allow (PRF-I).

The proposed works to tree #967 consist of the reduction of the crown by 5m. These works will not impact the wound identified at the lower level of the tree.

As such, based upon the results of the GLTRA, no further survey work is recommended, and the proposed arboricultural works can proceed without restriction.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the 18 trees surveyed during the GLTRA, 10 trees with roosting potential were identified.

The trees with potential roosting features are outlined in Table 7 below: -

Table 7 – Trees with Identified PRFs for Bats during GLTRA

Tree / Tag Number	Species	Primary PRF for Bats	Elevation	PRF-I / PRF-M / N/A	Roosting Potential (0-4)	Roost Found?	Proposed Works	Implications for Proposed Work
1 #961	Horse Chestnut	Tearout	2.5m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
2 #962	Sycamore	Ivy Growth	0-7m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
4 #964	Sycamore	Wound Dividing Stem Ivy Growth	1m 3m 0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	No Works	No further survey work required
6 #966	Sycamore	Wound Ivy Growth	1.5m 0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Upper crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
7 #967	Sessile Oak	Wound Ivy Growth	1-3m 0-6m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (5m)	No further survey work required
8 #968	Sycamore	Ivy Growth	0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	No Works	No further survey work required
9 #969	Holly	Ivy Growth	0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	REMOVE TREE	No further survey work required
11 #971	Holly	Small Holes in Bark	1m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	REMOVE TREE	No further survey work required
12 #972	Sycamore	Dividing Stem Ivy Growth	2.5m 0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required
14 #974	Sycamore	Ivy Growth	0-8m	PRF-I	1 - low	No	Crown reduction (2-3m)	No further survey work required

All PRFs for bats identified during the survey were able to be accessed and inspected for evidence of bats, with none being found during the GLTRA.

All trees with roosting potential were classified as PRF-I, which means that the PRFs identified are only likely to be used by individual bats, and are not suitable to support multiple bats or to be used as a maternity colony (PRF-M).

Based upon the above, no further survey work is recommended with respect to bats, prior to commencement of the proposed arboricultural works.

6.1 Recommendations

As discussed, no further survey work is recommended based upon the results of the GLTRA.

With the above being said, a precautionary approach should still be adopted during the works, and based upon the current information, the following recommendations should be implemented: -

- Where trees require felling, these must be sectioned and soft felled;
- In this instance, parts of the tree with PRF-I are removed, but this is done by making cuts away from the feature and the section is lowered by rope (slowly and gently) to the ground. This section is then to be

leant against a standing tree for 24 hours with the roost feature facing outwards to allow the bat to fly out that night if it is present;

- If a bat is discovered at any time during the works, all works must stop immediately and a suitably licensed bat worker must be contacted. Works may then be required to stand down until a licence is obtained from Natural Resources Wales to continue;
- Works should be completed during daylight hours to limit disturbance to foraging and commuting bats. However, if this is not possible then site lighting must be directed at the works site only, be turned off when not in use and be fitted with hoods to prevent light spill into the surrounding habitats;
- The woodland is covered by a TPO issued by NPTCBC. Prior to commencement of the works, an application to undertake works to TPO covered trees will be required to be submitted to NPTCBC in order that the works can be legally undertaken;
- Prior to the works there may be a requirement for mitigation or compensation to be installed. This could be achieved by installing bat boxes within the woodland, to mitigate for any PRF-I which may be lost as part of the proposals.

7.0 REFERENCES

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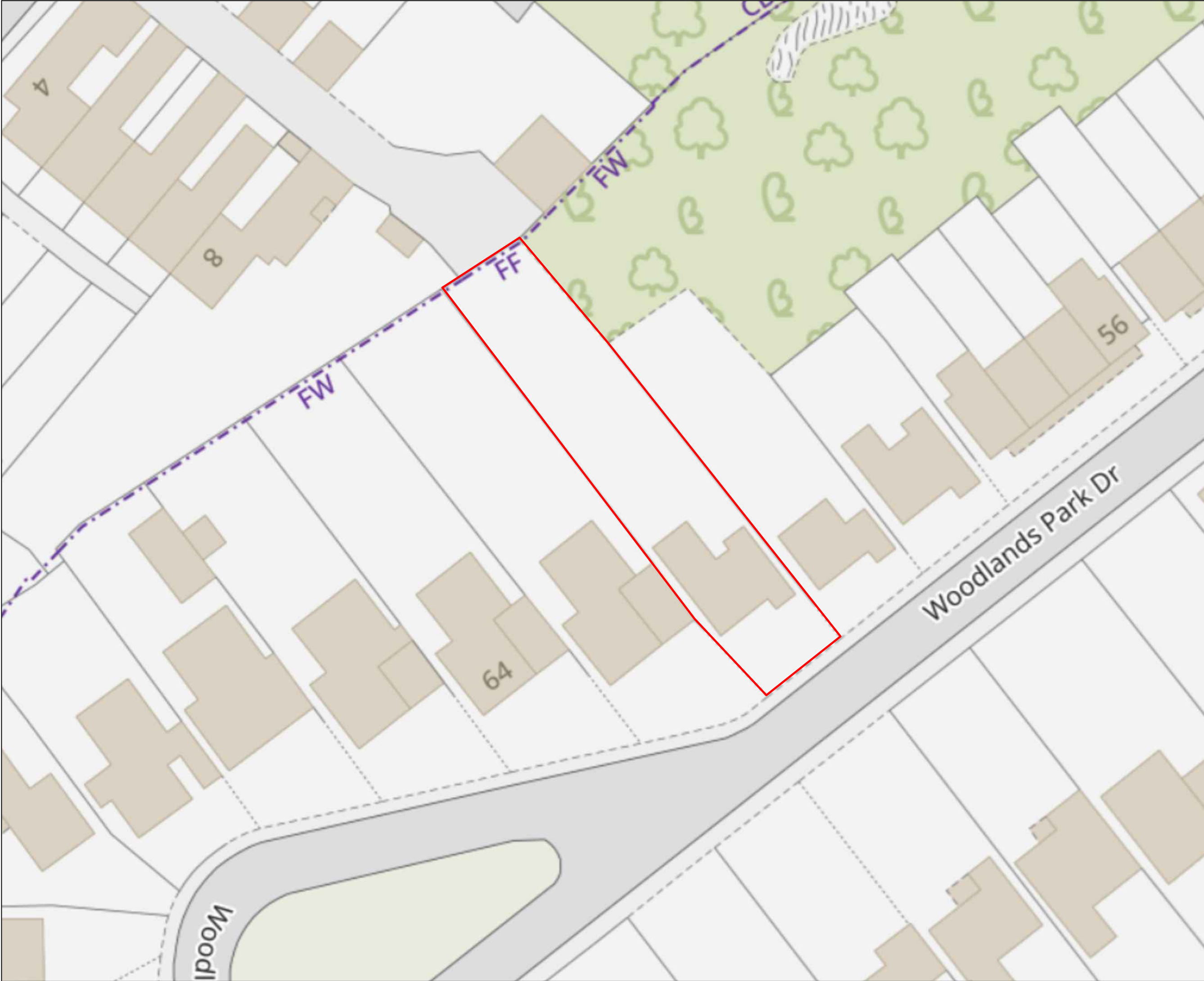
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APPENDIX A

Drawings



Notes:		A3
Red Line Boundary		
Job: GLTRA for Bats - Mr & Mrs Huw and Sian Morgan, 62 Woodlands Park Drive, Cadoxton		
Title: Site Red Line Boundary		
Date: September 2025		
Scale: NTS		
Drawn by: SO		
Checked by: ER		
ExCAL  ExCAL House, Capel Hendre Ind. Est. Ammanford Carmarthenshire SA18 3SJ Tel: 01269 831606 Fax: 01269 841867 Website: www.excaluk.com E-mail: info@excaluk.com		
Drawing No: 415-01-01.D01		
Revision No:	Date: 03/10/2025	

APPENDIX B

Photographs

Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 1 (#961) – Horse Chestnut – (M, VL, F, F, 2, H)



Tree 2 (#962) – Sycamore – (EM, VL, F, F, 2, H)



Tree 3 (#963) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, P, 0, M)



Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 4 (#964) – Sycamore – (M, VL, F, F, 0, **M**)



Tree 5 (#965) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, P, 0, **M**)



Tree 6 (#966) – Sycamore – (EM, VL, F, P, **2**, **H**)



Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 7 (#967) – Sessile Oak – (SM, VL, P, D, **1**, **H**)



Tree 8 (#968) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, P, 0, **M**)



Tree 9 (#968) – Holly – (EM, M, D, P, **2**, **M**)



Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 10 (#970) – Sycamore – (EM, M, F, P, **2**, **M**)



Tree 11 (#971) – Holly – (EM, S, D, D, **1**, **H**)



Tree 12 (#972) – Sycamore – (M, VL, F, F, **2**, **H**)

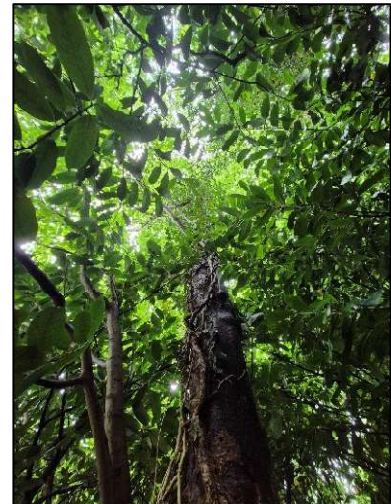


Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 13 (#973) – English Elm – (SM, M, F, P, 2, M)



Tree 14 (#974) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, P, 2, M)



Tree 15 (#975) – Sycamore – (EM, L, F, D, 2, M)



Appendix B – Photographs

Tree 16 (#976) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, D, **1**, **H**)



Tree 17 (#977) – Sycamore – (SM, L, F, D, **1**, **H**)



Tree 18 (#978) – Holly – (EM, S, D, D, **1**, **M**)

