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From: christurner@green-ecology.co.uk
Sent: 11 February 2020 17:36
To: EDelaney@somerset.gov.uk; ian@roachplanning.co.uk
Cc: lexiyates@green-ecology.co.uk; jongarner@green-ecology.co.uk
Subject: RE: 19/01840/OUT Land North of Ansford Hill - Ash tree

Dear Elvin,

I attended this afternoon to inspect the potential bat roosting features previously identified on the ash tree at the southern end of the site.

We used a telehandler with human cage to access the tree and I was able to get close to all potential features and used a torch and Rigid CA300 endoscope to inspect the tree.

A blue-tit has begun nesting in the hole it was previously found in. I can confirm that the hole only goes one way, and it was full of blue tit nesting material, no bat roosting potential.

A number of areas of rot are apparent in the canopy. These are open to the top and as a result, any flaking bark is wet through and lacked suitable crevices for roosting bats.

One downward facing knot hole at 8m high, to the south of the main trunk was blind, no roosting potential and another area in which a wound had begun to occlude on the same limb did not extend into a cavity, nor did it provide sufficient shelter for a bat.

I conclude that the tree lacked suitable crevices for a significant roost and although there were areas of flaking bark against dead wood, these generally did not provide suitable roosting conditions.

Just to confirm, our initial assessment from the ground was that the tree presented moderate bat roosting potential and was not safe to climb owing to the amount of dead wood in the canopy. Upon closer inspection, the tree presents negligible-low bat roosting potential and it is highly unlikely that bat roosts will be disturbed by development at the site.

I trust that this information is sufficient for the objection to be lifted.

Do not hesitate to contact me, should you need any further information.

Kind regards,

Chris

Chris Turner BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
NE L2 class licence number: 2015-12878-CLS-CLS
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Principal Ecologist

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