



Erebus: Onshore Cable Route

Technical Appendix 20.5 - Bat Survey Report

Client:	BlueGem
Project/Proposal No:	2923
Version:	1.0
Date:	2021-09-02





Document Information

Project Name:	Erebus: Onshore Cable Route
Document Title:	Technical Appendix 20.5 - Bat Survey Report
Client Name:	BlueGem
Client Contact:	Ben Huskinson
Document Status:	Final for Issue
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Reviewed:	R King
Approved:	R King
Date:	2021-09-02
Version:	1.0
Project/Proposal Number:	2923
ITPEnergised Office:	4th Floor, Centrum House, 108-114 Dundas Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5DQ

Revision History

Version	Date	Authored	Reviewed	Approved	Notes
1.0	2021-09-02	J Conway (BSG Ecology)	R King	R King	Final for issue

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Our ref: P21-525 Onshore Cable Route Pembrokeshire

Your ref:

02 September 2021

Richard King
ITP Energised

By email only

Dear Richard

Re: Onshore Cable Route Pembrokeshire Tree Inspection – Letter Report

This letter outlines the methods and results of inspections of eight trees situated along a proposed cable route extending from West Angle Bay to Pembroke Power Station.

Methods

A potential roost feature (PRF) inspection survey was undertaken on 13 July 2021 on eight trees that were identified as requiring further survey during a preliminary ground level tree assessment (undertaken by Erebus in February and March 2021). Two follow-up visits to re-inspect trees with moderate and high suitability to support roosting bats was undertaken on 05 August 2021, and 16 August 2021 respectively in accordance with the methods recommended in the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT) survey guidance¹.

The trees were inspected by Gareth Lang and Chris Morell, both of whom are qualified tree climbers and hold bat survey licences in Wales². All features on all trees could be accessed from ground-level. All PRFs on trees were fully inspected with an endoscope to assess the suitability of the feature to support roosting bats and to check for evidence of recent and / or regular use (such as the presence of bats, characteristic oil staining, polishing of internal surfaces, scratch marks and droppings). The suitability of each feature to support roosting bats has been described in accordance with Table 4.1 in the BCT survey guidance¹.

Results

Photographs and a table detailing the results of the inspections can be found in the Appendix (attached to this letter).

Initial inspection

No evidence of use by bats was found for any of the features inspected.

During the inspection, the surveyors assessed the suitability of each tree to support roosting bats as follows:

¹ Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Guidance: Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys For Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust. London

² NRW bat survey licence numbers: S088802/1 (Gareth Lang) and S087785/1 (Chris Morell).

- Negligible suitability: T128 and T87
- Low suitability: T108, T109 and T127
- Moderate suitability: T106, T107
- High suitability: T110

Surveyors were able to fully inspect features on trees with an endoscope and torch, therefore the initial survey was counted as one of the presence / absence visits recommended in the BCT survey guidance.

Subsequent inspections

No bats or evidence of use by bats was found for any of the features during the second and third inspections.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a pre-felling check of all low, moderate and high³ potential features is completed. A check for nesting birds will also be required immediately ahead of felling if the works are completed during the breeding bird season (between March and August inclusive).

Yours sincerely



Joanne Conway

Ecologist

For and on behalf of BSG Ecology

³ There is a possibility that bats may occupy features between the time of survey and the time of felling, therefore a pre-felling check of all features is recommended as a precaution.

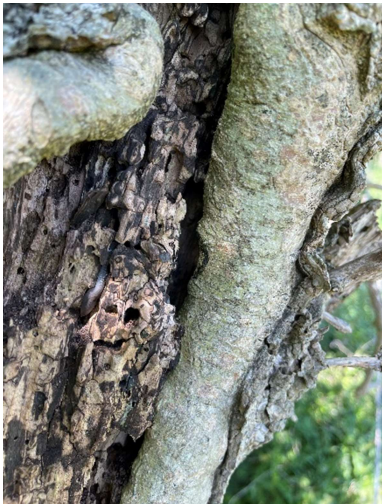
Appendix: Tree Inspection Results

Tree Number	Tree Species and size	PRF Type	PRF Height /Aspect	PRF Description	Suitability for roosting bats	Photo
106	Ash 14 m High 90 cm DBH	Split in fork	1.2 m E aspect of stem	Split (10 cm wide, extending 1 m into stem) at low fork due to leaning leader. Creaking, and unlikely to persist. Split is upward facing, with sheltering opportunities limited to numerous sections of splintered heartwood. No evidence of use by bats during either of the inspections. Potential to support transitional use by low number of bats.	Moderate	

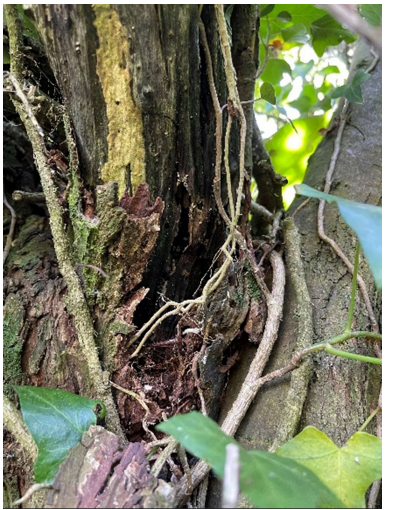
107	Ash 12 m High 40 cm DBH	Tear out	1.5 m SE aspect of stem	External damage of 30 cm x 10 cm, extending to a depth of 7 cm with downward developed bowl. Fungal fruiting bodies present on decaying heartwood. Small cavity (3 cm wide) present behind flaking heartwood. Remainder of feature is exposed and offers no shelter. No evidence of use by bats.	Low	
		Wound	1.2 m SE aspect of stem	External damage of 10 cm x 7 cm (partially covered by ivy), extending upward by 20 cm to join tear out cavity above (via narrow labyrinth). Internal cavity is clean and dry. Woodlouse present at apex of cavity during inspection on 05 August 2021. No evidence of use by bats during either of the inspections. Potential to support small number of bats.	Moderate	

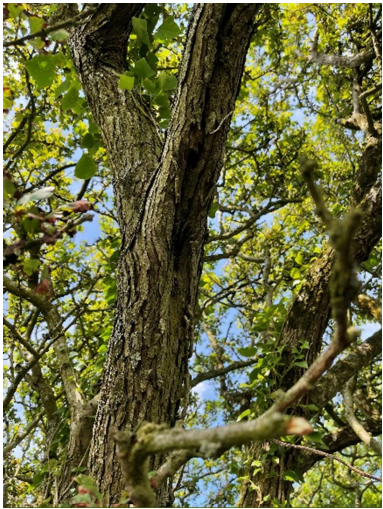
108	Ash 10 m High 40 cm DBH	Wound	1 m SE aspect of stem	Small (4 cm x 3 cm) entrance extending to 20 cm upward developed narrow tube. No evidence of use by bats. May support single small bat.	Low	
		Tear out	1.5 m SE aspect of stem	70 cm long x 5 cm wide tear out in main stem with ivy occluding internal cavity. Detritus covering internal surfaces. Limited shelter offered. No evidence of use by bats. May support transitional use by single bats.	Low	

		Knot hole	7 m W aspect on limb	Superficial, rear of cavity visible from ground.	Negligible	
109	Ash 5 m High 40 cm DBH	Knot hole	1.8 m SW aspect of stem	10 cm x 7 cm entrance to shallow, exposed bowl. Upward facing and likely to collect water.	Negligible	

		Tear out	2 m SW aspect of stem	Narrow gap (c. 1 cm wide) caused by bark forming 'ram's horns' along edge of tear out. Shallow depth (max 2 -3 cm). No evidence of use by bats. May support low numbers of small bats.	Low	
		Pollard decay	2.4 m Centre of stem	Upward-facing bowl at top of stem providing no sheltering opportunities for bats.	Negligible	

110	Ash 4 m High 50 cm DBH	Wound and decay	1.8 m SE aspect of stem.	15 cm x 5 cm entrance (upper) and 40 cm x 10 cm entrance (lower) leading to upward developed internal cavity extending to 1 m into stem. Internal surfaces are clean and dry. Woodlouse present during all inspections. No evidence of use by bats during any of the inspections, but suitable size to support a large colony.	High	
127	Hawthorn 5 m High 20 cm DBH	Decay	2 m N aspect on limb.	Narrow (1 cm x 5 cm) split at base of limb. No evidence of use by bats. May provide shelter for single bat.	Low	

		Decay	2 m N aspect on limb.	Damage at terminus of decaying limb with small cavity. No evidence of use by bats. May provide shelter for single bat.	Low	
		Dropped limb	3 m NE aspect on limb.	Upward facing with no sheltered crevices present. Likely to collect water during rain.	Negligible	

128	Hawthorn 5 m High 20 cm DBH	Minor wound and ivy	1.8 m S aspect of stem.	Very shallow fissure in the bark with no shelter provided. Ivy cover at the base of the tree is unsubstantial, and would not provide sufficient shelter for roosting.	Negligible	
87	Hawthorn 2 m High 15 cm DBH	-	-	Small through hole in limb present, but no shelter provided for a bat.	Negligible	



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