



Urban Tree Experts

BBS5837 – Tree Surveys – Ecological Consulting

Unit H Bridge Farm
Reading Road
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Reading
Berkshire RG2 9HT

9th October 2015

Mr S Rose
14 Highgate West Hill
London
N6 6JR

Dear Mr Rose

Site Visit at 14 Highgate West Hill - Inspection of one holly tree for the presence or absence of bats

Thank you for your instruction to conduct a stage one bat survey upon the holly at 14 Highgate West Hill. A summary of our findings and opinion are included along with our management recommendations in accordance with your instructions.

The bat survey and report were completed by Simon Holmes MSc, CEnv. He holds a Class 2 Bat Licence (No.CLSO03440). He has 27 years' experience of carrying out bat surveys and bat conservation work and has attended numerous training courses on bat surveys and mitigation, run by the Bat Conservation Trust, Wildwood Ecology and local bat groups.

The site visit:

A site visit was undertaken on Wednesday 7th October 2015 by Simon Holmes during daylight hours, the site location is shown at Figure 1 below. The inspection was carried out from ground level using binoculars and digital camera and video endoscope.

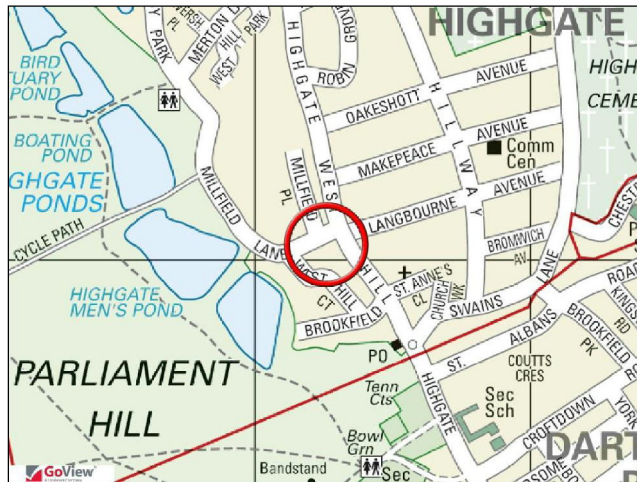


Figure 1: Site location.



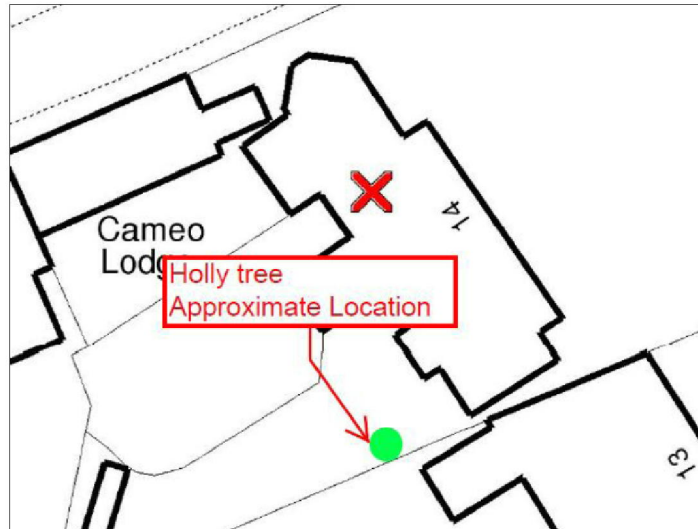
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The subject tree:

The subject tree, a mature holly, is situated in the rear garden of the property close to the boundary wall with 13 Highgate West Hill, see tree location plan at Figure 2.

Figure 2. Tree location



The tree dimensions were recorded as follows:

Height 6 metres, estimated, (est)
Diameter 400 millimetres, est
Canopy spread 4.5 metres, est

The tree is unremarkable and typical of the species. The bark is firmly attached and there are no signs of dysfunction. The main stem has a small cavity on the east side of the stem at 1.8 metres above ground level (AGL) and the stem leans towards the boundary wall to the south. The cavity was inspected with the endoscope, it was shallow, (unsuitable for bat roosting) and open to the elements, see Figure 3 below.



Figure 3, Cavity on main stem. 07.10.15.



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The canopy is congested and typical of the species with full size leaves and fully formed fruit. A climbing jasmine was observed growing into the canopy and has become entwined around the main stem.

Findings and opinion:

We inspected all possible features of the tree and no evidence of bats was observed, either current or historical. The cavity was examined with the endoscope, it is upward facing and unsuitable for bats to roost. Climbing jasmine will not form a sufficiently dense mass that provides the suitable roost.

Conclusions:

Jasmine stems are small and do not form a suitable habitat (crevice) for bats to roost. The evidence and visual assessment provides a high level of confidence that the tree is not being used by bats to roost. The features were used to categorise the tree in accordance with the Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines. It is a category 3, "Trees with no potential to support bats".

Recommendations:

Based on recommendations in the Bat Workers Manual and the Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines prior to works, no further surveys are required.

If felling is proposed ideally this should be undertaken as soon as possible following this survey but outside of the bird nesting season.

If you require any further information or have any further questions relating to the content of this report please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Simon Holmes CEnv
Consultant Tree Experts
Natural England Licence CLSO03440