

**From:** Levine, Cody <CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 June 2020 14:56  
**To:** Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Lea Castle Quarry Queries

Hi Steve

Sorry, you're quite right, there seems to be a confusing mismatch in tree ID between the various documents, specifically between the ecology and arboricultural appendices. I'd not noticed this until I went back to cross-reference the two documents, and it's thrown up some more questions.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and EclA identifies:

- Target Note 2 as a dying sweet chestnut with negligible bat roost potential. This tree's identified as T22 (**veteran** sweet chestnut) in the arboricultural report.
- Target Note 3 is identified as a **veteran** oak in poor condition and which apparently hasn't been assessed any further for potential to support bat roosts. I believe this tree is T5 in the arboricultural report, but was not identified in that document as a veteran tree.
- Target Note 5 is tree T3, identified as a sweet chestnut with moderate bat roosting potential and which was subsequently found to support a bat roost. Unless I've mis-read the reports, I think this tree is identified as T8 in the arboricultural report, which identifies it as a common oak?
- Target Note 6 is tree T2, an oak with high bat roost potential and subsequently a 'possible' bat emergence was noted during surveys. This is identified as T9 in the arb report.
- Target Note 12 is tree T4, an oak tree with high bat roost potential and which supports roosting kestrel. This was identified as **veteran** oak T25 in the arb report.

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## PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL OF LAND AT LEA CASTLE FARM, WOLVERLEY

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### APPENDIX 2

#### Target Notes

##### Target Notes

Target Note	Grid reference	Notes
1	SO 83757 79491	Motorcycle scramble jumps, bramble scrub to the north. Bare ground present that is regularly disturbed.
2	SO 83840 79280	Dying sweet chestnut. Negligible bat potential.
3	SO 83659 79208	Oak – dieback. Veteran tree poor condition on footpath.
4	SO 83639 79005	Large-leaved lime. Low bat potential.
5	SO 83736 78946	T3 Dead sweet chestnut. Moderate bat potential.
6	SO 83777 78885	T2 Oak tree with woodpecker holes. Moderate bat potential. Potential for barn owls.
7	SO 83863 78940	T1 Oak tree with moderate potential for bats and barn owl
8	SO 83969 79042	Beech and lime trees along the remains of an avenue.
9	SO 84475 78943	Unmanaged, gappy field hedgerow comprising hawthorn and elm.
10	SO 84503 79080	Unmanaged, gappy field hedgerow comprising hawthorn, elm, elder and honeysuckle
11	SO 84448 79183	Intact field hedgerow comprising hawthorn, elm and elder.
12	SO 84438 79251	T4 Oak tree. High bat roost potential. Potential kestrel nest site
13	SO 84363 79104	T5 Oak tree. Moderate bat roost potential
14	SO83974 78892	Tall ruderal area with patches of bramble scrub, and stored machinery, vehicles and stock piles. Areas of bare ground also present.

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#### BAT ROOST SURVEY AT LEA CASTLE FARM, WOLVERLEY

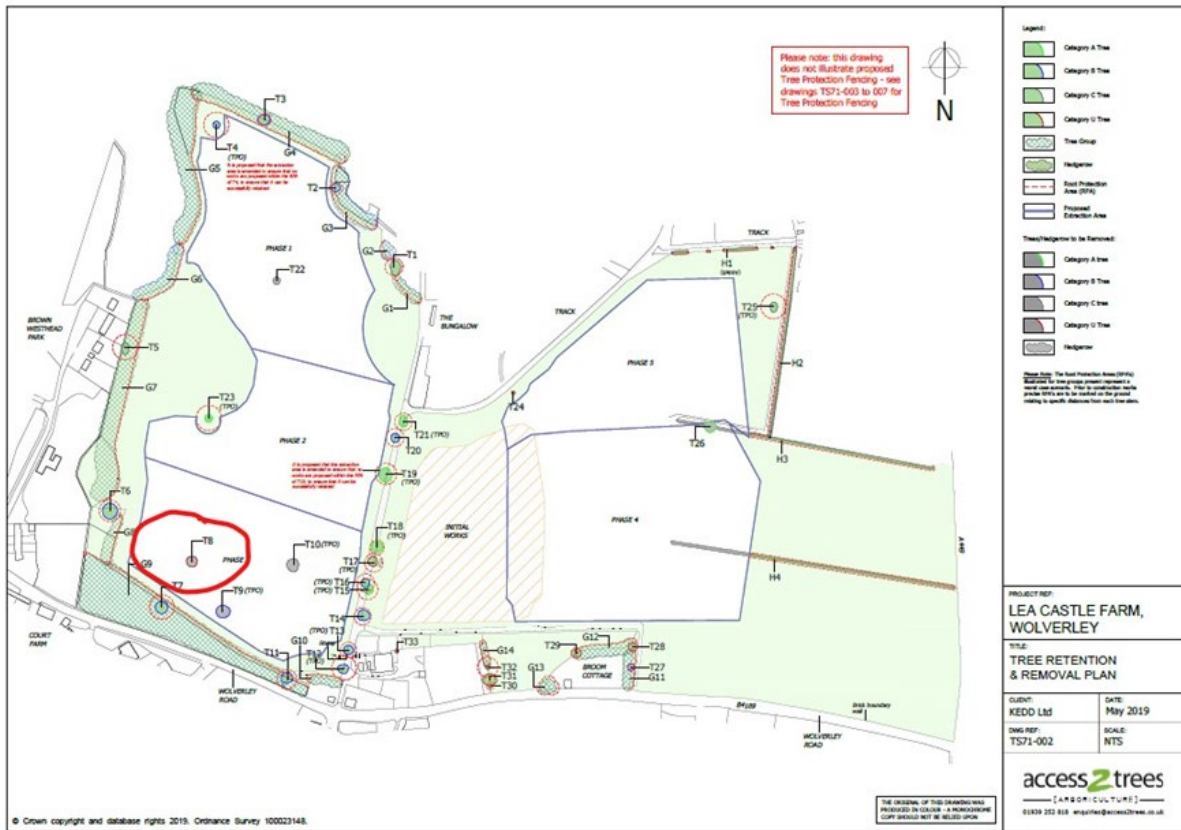
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#### 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 One common pipistrelle was seen emerging from a split in a limb of Tree 3 during the second survey. No other emergence or re-entry activity was observed from this tree during any of the other two surveys. It is therefore considered that this tree is used as an occasional roost by a single bat. One possible brown long-eared bat emergence was recorded from Tree 2 during the second survey. No other emergence or re-entry activity was observed from this tree during any of the other two surveys. During the surveys conducted in 2016, one possible brown long-eared bat re-entry was observed from Tree 1 during the second survey. No other emergence or re-entry activity was observed from this tree during the other two surveys in 2016 or from the three surveys completed in 2018. The other two surveyed trees (Trees 4 and 5) were found to have no bats roosting within them at the time of the surveys in 2018.



Red = bat roost confirmed  
 Blue = veteran tree



Tree and Tag No Species	Height (m)	Stems		Crown		Age	RP A (m) R (m)	Phys Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations Survey Comment	Cat ERC
		No	Ø (mm)	Spread (m)	Clear (m)						
<b>T5</b> Common Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	15	1	1350	N 5 E 4 S 9 W 5	M	A: 707 R: 15	Fair	C: Fair S: Poor B: Poor	Reduce crown(s) :: By 20% Remove :: Major dead wood Remove :: Stubs  Tree is located approximately 6m from the edge of the field, adjacent to the rear boundaries of adjacent properties, and adjacent to a footpath. Major dead wood present, as well as stubs, and a failed branch at 4m height to the south. Tree is in poor condition, and there are signs of a fungus present to base to the north - recommendation to reinspect for signs of fungal fruiting bodies in the autumn. Recommendation to crown reduce by 20%.	C.1.2 10 to 20 y/5	
<b>T6</b> Common Lime <i>Tilia europaea</i>	19	1	1070	N 9 E 9 S 10 W 9	M	A: 518 R: 12.84	Fair	C: Fair S: Fair B: Fair	Tree has major dead wood present throughout, over extended branches and a sparse lower crown - recommendation to monitor going forward. Pruning wounds are evident, which the tree does not appear to have responded well to.	B.1.2 20 to 40 y/5	
<b>T7</b> Common Lime <i>Tilia europaea</i>	24	1	1230	N 7 E 7 S 8 W 8	M	A: 684.5 R: 14.76	Good	C: Good S: Good B: Fair	Tree is located approximately 3m to the south of the boundary. Dead branch located at 8m height to the north. Included bark present at 3m height - recommendation to monitor. Recommendation to sever Ivy.	B.1.2 20 to 40 y/5	
<b>T8</b> Common Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	13	1	1070	N 6 E 6 S 7 W 7	Dead	A: 518 R: 12.84	Dead	C: Poor S: Poor B: Poor	Tree is dead. May be suitable for retention for habitat value. Elder shrub at base to the south (multistemmed average 130mm diameter).	U n/a	
Age Classifications:		N Newly planted	EM Early Mature	Condition:		C Crown	Stems:		Ø Diameter		
		Y Young	M Mature			S Stem	(Eq) Equivalent stem diameter using BS5837:2012 definition				
		SM Semi-mature	OM Over Mature			B Basal area	ERC: Estimated Remaining Contribution				

I think my point applies regardless of species and bat roost: development resulting in loss or deterioration of veteran trees (T5, T22 and T25 as per arboricultural report, based on combined assessment btwn the applicant's ecologists and arboriculturists) shouldn't be permitted unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and an acceptable compensation strategy exists.

As a related point, Target Note 3 (in the PEA) is identified as a veteran oak (I believe this is T25 in the arb report, which also identifies the tree as a veteran oak) and I could see no assessment of bat roost potential. I think consideration of effects on T25 is pertinent as the tree is located very close to site boundaries and may, as a result, be affected by draw-down, dust, noise/vibration, light or other effects of the scheme during operation/restoration which may in turn lead to deterioration and potential loss. Further clarification is therefore sought to consideration of effects on and protection measures for veteran oak tree TN3/T25.

Apologies for any confusion and apologies if I've inadvertently misinterpreted or missed some explanation in these documents!

All the best

Cody.