



**Owselbury Sports Ground
Baybridge Lane, Owslebury, Winchester,
Hampshire, England, SO21 1JN**

Preliminary Roost Appraisal of Trees

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1.0 Summary

The proposal is to create a new sports ground with associated outbuildings, hardstanding areas and parking. A pavilion will be erected with the remaining grassland utilised for both football and cricket pitches.

Peach Ecology was instructed to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the trees on site that are proposed to be removed. An ecological assessment was undertaken by ProVision in November 2025, this will need to be read in conjunction with this PRA report. The trees were all assessed as having low-negligible bat roosting potential and can be removed under ecological supervision. The trees have some bird nesting potential and therefore will need to be removed outside of the bird nesting season or alternatively under ecological supervision.

Appropriate mitigation and enhancement measure will be put in place for the loss of the trees on site, this will be in accordance with any Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and Ecological Assessment. Additional enhancements will be in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes incorporated into the fabric of the new building.

2.0 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 Peach Ecology was commissioned in July 2026 to carry out a Preliminary Roost Appraisal of the trees to be removed at Owslebury Sports Ground (Grid Reference: SU 52081 23876), located as shown in **Appendix A** and laid out as shown in **Appendix B**. This report will be submitted to Winchester City Council to support the application for permission to create a new sports ground with associated outbuildings, pavilion, hardstanding areas and parking, as shown in **Appendix C**.

Description of site and surrounding area

- 2.2 The site is located within the village of Owselbury. The site consists of a sports pitch with some access, parking and trees to the west and south, there are some hedges to the north and east. The site is surrounded by roads to the north, west and south, there are residential dwellings to the east. Within 1-2km the site is surrounded by arable farmland beyond the roads and houses. These are all connected by hedges and trees with some occasional small woodland copses.

Brief

- 2.3 To carry out an assessment of the trees to be removed and inform the clients of any ecological implications associated with the proposals.

3.0 Methodology

Desk Study

- 3.1 This involved gathering ecological data relating to the site. Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) a DEFRA run website was used along with Ordnance Survey maps and aerial images were used to check for relevant data on notable habitats and species nearby, including European Protected Species license data and wildlife corridors where the site connects into the surrounding area.

Site Assessment

- 3.2 The initial site survey was undertaken on the 22nd July 2026. Indicative methodologies for the most likely protected and notable species that could occur on site or adjacent to the site and be impacted by the proposals are set out below.

Bats

- 3.3 Trees to be removed within the footprint of the site were inspected in accordance with 2023 survey guidance (Bat Conservation Trust) for potential access points and roosting features that could support bats. Trees were checked for ivy cover, crevices, flakey bark and rotten sections from ground level and from a ladder and with binoculars and an endoscope where necessary. Davog McCloskey (Licence number 2015-11951-CLS-CLS) was present at the survey.

Birds

- 3.4 The trees were assessed for their bird nesting potential and any nesting activity was noted.

4.0 Results and Analysis

Desk study

- 4.1 The trees to be removed do provide some connectivity for bats and other wildlife along the south-west boundary. The loss of trees will need to be compensated with new tree planting in a similar location to ensure connectivity is maintained across the site.

Site Assessment

Trees

- 4.2 The trees to be removed (Photos 1-4) included:
- Horse Chestnut (T1) – 40-50cm DBH, loose flaking bark
 - Horse Chestnut (T2) – 50cm DBH, no visible PRF
 - Horse Chestnut (T3) – 50cm DBH. Loose flaking bark. Well healed split with no cavity
 - Horse Chestnut (T4) – 70cm DBH. Flaking bark
 - Norway Spruce (T5) – 60cm DBH. Flaking bark and small tear out scar
- 4.3 All the trees were regarded as having low to negligible bat roosting potential and no further survey work is required to ascertain bat roosting potential or status.
- 4.4 A final check will be undertaken before the trees are removed as roosting status can change over time.
- 4.5 New tree planting in the area where trees are to be removed will include the planting of at least 15 native trees to maintain connectivity at arboreal level across the western boundary of the site. Lighting will need to be taken into account to ensure dark corridors are maintained across the site. New features for roosting bats will be installed into the new buildings on site as enhancements.



Photo 1: T1



Photo 2: T2



Photo 2: T3



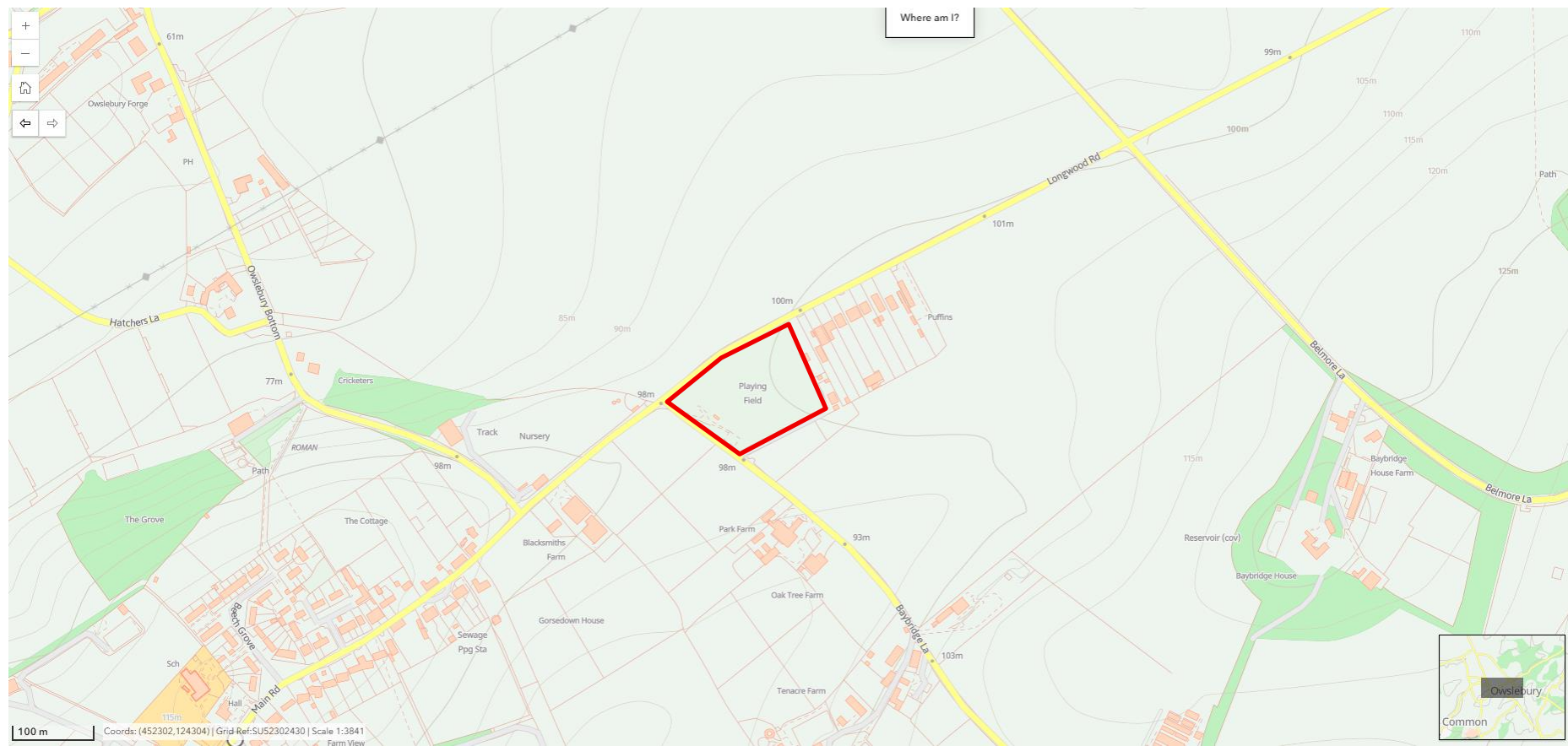
Photo 2: T4

5.0 Requirements and Recommendations

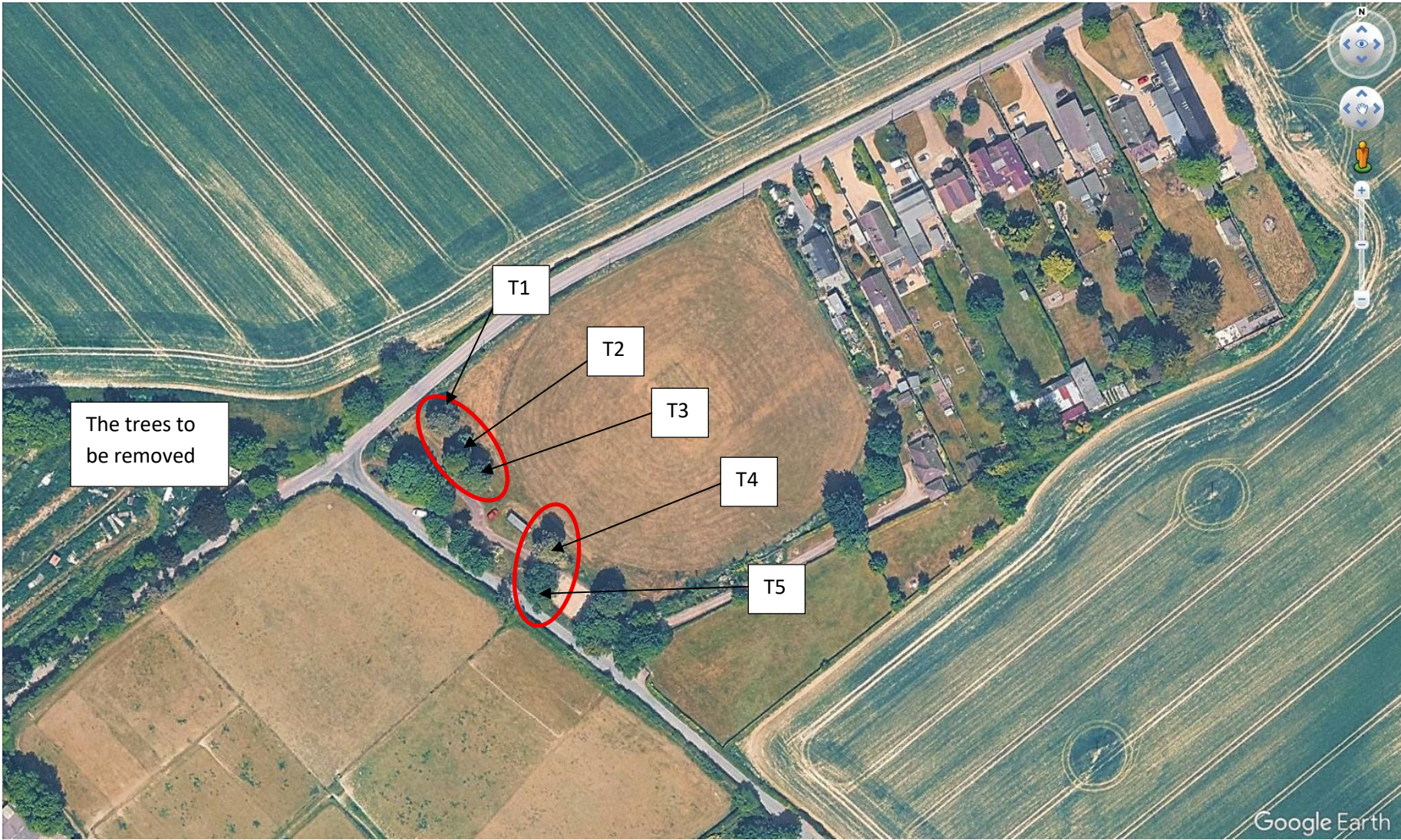
Bats and birds

- 5.1 Any new external lighting associated with the proposals will need to be avoided or avoid splaying onto the landscaped areas, new or retained trees, hedges or any wildlife features including bat or bird boxes. The dark corridors to the west will be maintained dark, below 1lux. External lighting, if required, will be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. A lighting plan will be reviewed by an ecologist.
- 5.2 One integrated swift box and bat box will be incorporated into the development, built into the fabric of the new building at a suitable location.
- 5.3 The trees have some bird nesting potential and therefore will need to be removed outside of the bird nesting season (which runs from March – August inclusive) or alternatively under ecological supervision. A final check will be undertaken before the trees are removed as roosting status for bats can change over time.
- 5.4 Appropriate mitigation and enhancement measure will be put in place for the loss of the trees on site, this will be in accordance with any Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and Ecological Assessment.
- 5.5 New tree planting in the area where trees are to be removed will include the planting of at least 15 native trees to maintain connectivity at arboreal level across the western boundary of the site.

Appendix A: Site location



Appendix B: Existing aerial



Appendix C: Proposals



Appendix D: Protected species legislation

Birds

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This includes damage and destruction of their nests whilst in use, or construction. Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, such as barn owl, are afforded protection from disturbance during the nesting season.

The following 50 bird species are SPIs: lesser redpoll, aquatic warbler, marsh warbler, skylark, white-fronted goose, tree pipit, scaup, bittern, dark-bellied brent goose, stone-curlew, nightjar, hen harrier, northern harrier, hawfinch, corncrake, cuckoo, Bewick's swan, lesser spotted woodpecker, corn bunting, curl bunting, yellowhammer, reed bunting, red grouse, herring gull, black-tailed godwit, linnet, twite, Savi's warbler, grasshopper warbler, woodlark, common scoter, yellow wagtail, spotted flycatcher, curlew, house sparrow, tree sparrow, grey partridge, wood warbler, willow tit, marsh tit, dunnoek, Balearic shearwater, bullfinch, roseate tern, turtle dove, starling, black grouse, song thrush, ring ouzel and lapwing.

Birds are also categorised according to their level of conservation concern indicated by their population status and stability. These are known as the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4), Red, Amber and Green lists (Eaton et al, 2015). Where red and amber species are present, their conservation status should be considered in determining the likely impacts of proposed projects and plans.

The conservation status of birds recorded during the survey was assessed against the following criteria:

- EC Birds Directive 2009 Annex 1,
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended) Schedule 1, (Table 1, WCA1)
- Natural Environment and rural communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Section 41
- Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern in England (BoCC4)

Bats

All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as detailed above. Bats are further protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which bat(s) use for shelter or protection.
- Disturb bat(s) while occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.
- Obstruct access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection.

Furthermore, seven bat species are SPIs, covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These include western barbastelle, Bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, lesser horseshoe and greater horseshoe.