



Wednesday 8th July 2026

Oliver Crossley
Sonning Golf Club
Duffield Road,
Woodley,
Reading,
RG6 4GJ

Dear Oliver

RE: SONNING GOLF CLUB – BAT TREE ROOST ASSESSMENT

Further to our recent conversation, I can confirm that I visited the Phase 1 area of development at Sonning Golf Club, which are concentrated around the current car park area, on the 1st July 2026.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment produced by SJA Trees in March 2026 (Report Ref: SJA ams 25378-01) identifies six trees that require removal to facilitate development, as well as several sections of Leyland cypress hedgerow and a small section of yew hedge.

The trees in questions – T60, 61, 62, 63, 74, and 75 – were subject to a Ground Level Tree Assessment using the methodology and assessment criteria presented in BCT (2023). A visual inspection of each tree was undertaken, searching for potential roost features (PRFs) such as loose bark, woodpecker holes, splits or rot holes, that could be exploited by bats. A one million candle power torch and Leica 10 x42 binoculars were used as necessary. Details were recorded in the field with the aid of Coreo Ecology software.

No PRFs were noted on any of the trees. Tree T74 has a minor amount of ivy on the main trunk. As such, this tree should be felled in a careful manner, with the main branches and trunk being dismantled and left on the ground for 24 hours before removal.

A summary of the field results are presented in Table 1.

Yew hedges and coniferous species, such as Leyland Cypress, do not generally possess potential roost features such as rot holes or cracks due to the nature of the trunk material. Combined with the dense outer foliage, they are generally accepted as being extremely poor tree/hedge species for bat roosts, especially when they are well maintained as dense hedgerows as is the case here. In fact, as of December 2025, out of the 8800 tree roosts records held on the Bat Conservation Trusts' Bat Tree Habitat Key (BTHK) databases [<http://battreehabitatkey.co.uk/>] none were associated Leyland

Cypress. Nevertheless, an inspection of the Cypress and yew identified for removal was undertaken with no PRFs being noted.

It is also my understanding that all vegetation clearance and tree removal works will be take place outside of the nesting bird season, nominally February to September. If, for any reason, this is not possible, then a suitably qualified ecologist will be present to carry out the required bird nesting checks no more than 24 hours prior to vegetation clearance and tree removal.

I hope you find this useful, but if you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
For and on behalf of Derek Finnie Associates Ltd.



Derek Finnie CEnv MEnvSc MCIEEM
Managing Director



Table 1. Summary of results extracted from Coreo).

Id no.	latitude	longitude	Tree no.	Tree species	Tree dead	Tree health	DBH (cm)	Tree Height (m)	Description	PRFs found?
32209368	51.4653403	0.901513366	60	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> (Sycamore)	No		20	5		No
32209369	51.46537129	0.901619312	61	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> (Sycamore)	No		20	5		No
32209370	51.46542107	0.90166795	62	<i>Taxus baccata</i> (Yew)	No		30	4		No
32209371	51.465461802	0.901735747	63	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)	No		32	8		No
32209372	51.46482686	0.900064988	74	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)	No	Low covering of ivy	15	5	Poor health - some signs of die back	No
32209373	51.46481027	0.900102519	75	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)	No	Some signs of dieback	12	5		No