

**Re: Application DC/26/0924 – Lock House, Lock Lane, Partridge Green, RH13 8EG – Erection of holiday cottage**

**Response to Place Services ecological advice (ref: 21137, dated 3 September 2026)**

This memorandum is a response to the ecological advice from Place Services dated 3 September 2026, which raised a temporary holding objection pending further information on European Protected Species (bats), specifically in relation to trees T9 and T11 as identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Absolute Arboriculture, April 2026).

**Revised tree works**

Following review of the scheme, the arboricultural proposals for T9 and T11 have been revised and reduced significantly from those originally submitted. Neither tree will now be felled. The revised works are as follows:

T9 (Common Ash, category U) – to be retained in full. A small number of minor branches, approximately 30mm in diameter, will be removed from the crown. These branches are shown in the attached photographs and show no visible cracks, cavities, loose or lifting bark, ivy cover, woodpecker holes, or other features associated with bat roost potential.

T11 (Common Ash, category C) – to be retained in full. A small number of minor branches, approximately 40mm in diameter, will be removed from the upper crown, as shown in the attached photographs, which similarly show no visible features associated with bat roost potential. The lower stem section, including the included bark wound noted in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment at approximately 2–3m from ground level, will not be pruned, disturbed, or otherwise affected by these works and will remain fully intact.

A photographic record identifying the specific material to be removed on each tree is enclosed with this letter.

**Relevance to the holding objection**

Place Services' advice was framed around the felling of T9 and T11 in their entirety, and the corresponding need to establish whether either tree supported roosting bats before their removal could be authorised. As neither tree is now proposed for felling, and the works are limited to the pruning of small-diameter branches showing no visible potential roost features, we would ask that Place Services and the case officer consider whether the revised scope of works removes the basis for the holding objection, or substantially narrows what further information (if any) is required.

We recognise that the previously identified stem wound on T11 was highlighted as a point of note in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment. As this feature sits on the section of stem that is being retained and will not be touched by the proposed works, we do not consider it engaged by this application. Should the Council nonetheless wish for this to be formally confirmed, we would be content for a suitably worded planning condition to be attached to any permission, for example requiring that no works take place to the stem or lower trunk of T11 without prior written confirmation from a suitably qualified ecologist that no bat roost feature would be affected.

Enc: Photographic schedule – T9 and T11 branch removal