

**Adventure Forest Ltd. (T/A) Go Ape Proposed Tree Top Junior at Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire**  
**Approval of details reserved by condition**

An application for a Tree Top Junior high ropes course at the Forestry Commission Visitor Centre, Low Dalby referenced NYM/2013/0024/FL was approved subject to conditions on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Condition 5 quoted below is taken directly from the decision notice and refers to the construction of the high ropes course and requests mitigation methods related to the possible presence of bats at the site. The information below is provided in answer to the condition.

5. No work shall commence on the works to any trees required in preparation for the development hereby permitted until details of a programme of works to mitigate the impact of the development on any bats at the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme shall include a survey of the site area to determine the extent of any bat presence and a written scheme of mitigation measures. The work shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with the details so approved.

In order to assess whether the site showed any signs for the presence of bats Brian Hicks MSc MCIEEM (Bat licence no. 20122309), Forestry Commission Yorkshire Forest District Ecologist, inspected the course trees and the trees within the surrounding area for any signs of roosting bats and/or suitable bat roosting habitat. As can be seen from his report attached<sup>1</sup> he visually inspected all the trees within the area from the ground and noted that all the trees were healthy with no splits, holes or cracks or flaking bark which could provide suitable areas for bats to roost.

It would seem reasonable to conclude then that there will be no risk to any bats by carrying out the course construction or operating the course. Brian Hicks notes that there may be a slight loss in habitat in which bats feed but that this loss will be negligible due to the small size of the area in question and its proximity to an area of woodland already used for recreation.

From the observations made during the survey it seems very unlikely that any bats will be encountered during the construction process. However as a precautionary measure before any works take place all members of the construction team will be reminded of the following:

- That all species of bats in the UK are protected and that it is an offence to intentionally injure, handle or kill a bat.
- Only persons with the appropriate licence may handle bats – as such they are not to touch a bat if they come across one.
- If they come across a bat during the works they are not to disturb it but instead stop all works within the area and inform Ben Davies of Adventure Forest Ltd. (applicant) and Brian Hicks who will in turn inform the North York Moors planning authority in order to decide what course of action should take place.

<sup>1</sup> See Go Ape DA TTJ FC Brian Hicks Bat Survey

NYMINPA  
16 JUL 2013

By way of habitat enhancement in an area which appears to not offer any suitable bat roosting sites, Go Ape will fund the installation of 6 Schwegler 2FN bat boxes on appropriate trees in a nearby location to be agreed with the Forestry Commission.

NYM/NPA  
16 JUL 2010

**Yorkshire Forest District**

Outgang Road

Pickering

YO18 7LT

Ecologist

Brian Hicks

Tree Top Junior – Dalby Forest.

Ecology Report.

A survey of the proposed Tree Top Junior site at Dalby Forest was carried out on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 by Forestry Commission Ecologist Brian Hicks MSc MCIEEM (Bat licence no. 20122309).

The main tree species is Larch *Larix sp.* planted in 1941.

The understorey consists of Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Hazel *Corylus avellana* Birch *Betula pendula*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplanatus*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*.

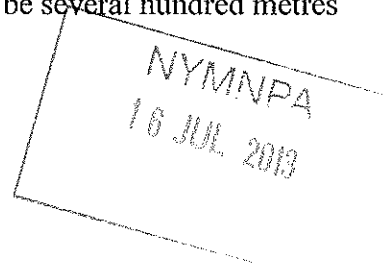
Species present within the field layer include Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, Wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*.

There were a small number of Badger *Meles Meles* latrine pits on the boundary of the woodland and fields in the north west corner of the proposed site.

A detailed inspection of the Larch trees was carried out from the ground using Swarovski 7 x 42 binoculars. All of the trees were found to be healthy with no splits, holes or cracks, and no flaky bark. Therefore these trees were found to have no potential for harbouring roosting bats.

None of the understorey trees were found to have any features suitable for roosting bats. Removal of these trees would result in a slight reduction of the area used by foraging bats, but in the context of this part of Dalby forest this area is extremely small and the effect would be negligible at most.

Badgers will not be affected by this development, the latrine area is outside the development area. Following tracks from the latrine, it is thought that the sett is likely to be several hundred metres away to the north.





Brian Hicks 2013.

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16 JUL 2013